THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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People queue up to offer prayers at the Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar, J&K, on Sunday on the occasion of Maha Shivratri and Herath festivals | PTI

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Bolt from the Blues: Meek Pak surrender without fight

No handshake, no rivalry either as Ishan's heroics and precision bowling do the job

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Colombo

India opener Ishan Kishan leads the charge with 40-ball 77 against Pakistan in Colombo on Sunday. India's 175 was too much as Pakistan folded for just 114 | AP

8-1 India continue to dominate Pakistan in T20 World Cups, extend record to 8 wins of 9

175 India's 175/5 is the highest total in T20 WC matches between these two teams

THE rain stayed away. But so did the 'spirit of the game' as India and Pakistan continued their recent policy of not engaging at the toss. Suryakumar Yadav didn't greet Pakistan's Salman Agha. The game itself was reduced to a non-event as a dominating Indian display meant they won the game by 61 runs to advance to the Super Eight stage of the World Cup where stiffer tests will arrive.

After weeks of theatrics and threats of boycott, more drama arrived even before a ball was bowled in front of a capacity crowd as the two captains refused to engage with each other. Both of them stood within handshaking distance but the hands never shook. This game of political chess was made all the more inexplicable as Wasim Akram, here on media duties, and Rohit Sharma, the World Cup ambassador, greeted each other like long lost friends. They hugged and shook hands in front of the world cricket media 10 minutes before the beginning of the first innings.

By the time game started, the city came to a standstill with heightened security and loud fans from the subcontinent.

All pre-match discussions were immediately put to the background as Ishan Kishan continued his coruscating batting form to reduce Pakistan's mix and match spinners. His batting has been thoroughly incandescent since the World Cup began: 20 off 16 against US, 61 off 24 against Namibia and, now, 77 of the most murderous runs you will see at a global event. He did edge a few but the only way you win the lottery is when you buy yourself a ticket. He bought a few and helped the team win the jackpot.

Pakistan helped them by opting to bowl but it seemed likely the stage got to them. They were never on the money and the Men In Blue didn't need a second invitation to punish them on a night when they played like champions elect. For all the psychodrama and hype associated with this fixture, it has not been worthy of the build-up in terms of results. Long after the lights were switched off at the Premadasa, one thought dominated. This makes it six games on the trot for India against them in T20Is. Game. Set. Match. The Championship will follow at this rate.

P13

HIT-WAVE

T20 ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

Today's Matches

11am: UAE vs Afghanistan (Delhi)

3pm: England vs Italy (Kolkata)

7pm: Sri Lanka vs Australia (Pallekele)

The front portion of the Indica car was completely damaged in the accident

Five youth die after car crashes into KSRTC bus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

JUST a few hours after a deadly accident near Hoskote claimed the lives of seven, including six minors, five youth died after their car rammed into a divider and collided with an oncoming KSRTC bus on Saturday night. The accident occurred on the Tumakuru–Bengaluru National Highway flyover in front of Jindal Hospital in the Madanayakanahalli police limits. Like in the previous accident on Friday early morning, here too the youth had allegedly lied to their parents about going out on a drive, the police said.

The deceased have been identified as Durga Prasad (20), who helped in his father's business, Lalith Kumar (23), a CCTV technician, Harshith (20), a second PU student, Keshav (19) and Dhanush (17). All were friends and residents of Doddaballapur in Bengaluru Rural district.

Keshav was driving the Indica car (KA 02 MA 8841) owned by Lalith Kumar. P5

Step up, share gains with workers, PM to India Inc

India as next AI hub

Modi pitched India as a global hub for digital infrastructure and AI saying the country is ready to host the world's data and lead the next wave of the technology revolution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the private sector to step in "more aggressively" and "boldly", while hailing the latest Budget and a spate of global trade deals signed by his government as foundations for Viksit Bharat.

In a wide-ranging interview with PTI, the prime minister urged the dynamic private corporate sector to invest "more aggressively" in research and development, adopt frontier technologies, deepen supply-chain capabilities and compete on quality and productivity rather than on protected margins.

"Policy can only create the enabling framework," he said. "The next phase of transformation requires a decisive response from private sector. Incentives and tariff preferences catalyse growth, but competitiveness rests on innovation, efficiency and scale."

The PM said gains of private sector must be shared fairly between workers, shareholders and owner-managers as productivity rises. "Sustainable growth requires social legitimacy. Rising real wages, skill upgrade, and stable employment reinforce domestic demand and social cohesion," he said.

On India concluding trade deals with the European Union and the UK, securing tariff reductions and expanded market access for goods and services, while reaching an understanding with the US to ease tariff frictions, Modi said "There is a new confidence in our nation...we are a bright spot of growth even in difficult global circumstances."

We now have FTAs with 38 nations, an unprecedented milestone in India's trade history, including countries of varying economic strength

Narendra Modi

EXPRESS READ

Om Birla to represent India at Bangla PM's oath ceremony

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's next PM, Tarique Rahman, on February 17. Bangladesh had invited PM Narendra Modi, but the latter will not be able to attend it as he is scheduled to hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron | P11

SC to hear pleas challenging women entry to Sabarimala

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will hear on Monday a batch of review and writ petitions challenging its 2018 verdict permitting the entry of women of all ages into the Lord Ayyappa temple. A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, is scheduled to hear the review and writ petitions | P7

B'luru student missing in US found dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

SAKETH Sreenivasaiah, a 22-year-old student from Bengaluru studying in the United States, missing since February 10, was found dead on Saturday.

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco confirmed the recovery of his body. While the exact cause of his death is yet to be ascertained, it is said that his body was recovered near Lake Anza in Berkeley. The photos and videos of authorities searching for him in the lake and around Berkeley Hills were circulating on social media. As per Berkeley media reports from Berkeley, Saketh's roommate, who had filed a missing complaint, identified the body. Earlier, Saketh's wallet and bag were found at a nearby park.

The roommate shared on social media that Saketh's mood had shifted two weeks ago, and he had started eating less and engaging less, and had simply "stopped caring" about life.

In a statement on X, the consulate said, "The Consulate deeply regrets to inform that local police have confirmed the recovery of the body of the missing Indian student, Saketh Sreenivasaiah. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this profoundly difficult time." CONTINUED ON: P5

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 16.02.2026 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sishir • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Chaturdasi 5.11 pm
• Nakshatra: Shravana 8.44 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 15°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST
Broken clouds

Sunrise 06.41 am
Sunset 06.25 pm
Moonrise 05.46 am
Moonset 05.31 pm

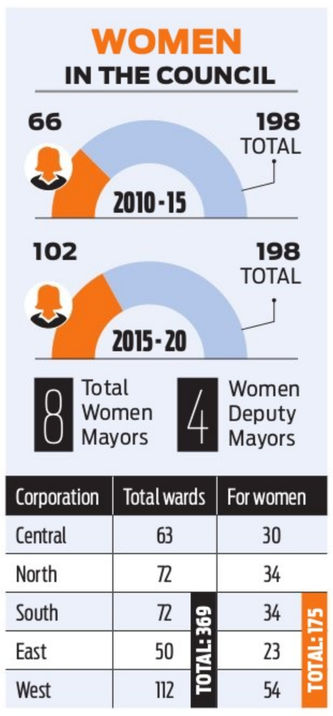
PARTIES GROOM WOMEN FOR GBA ELECTION DEBUT

Applicants range from ordinary party workers to relatives of established politicians

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the reservation for women and Other Backwards Classes (OBC) in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections 2026, political parties, including the Congress, BJP, and AAP, are gearing up to groom future women corporators, mayors, and deputy mayors.

On January 9, the state government published a draft notification of reservations for wards under the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), OBC Category A and B, women, and general categories for elections across Bengaluru's five city corporations. Notably, 175 out of 369 seats have been reserved for women.



Corporation	Total wards		For women	
Central	63	TOTAL: 369	30	TOTAL: 175
North	72		34	
South	72		34	
East	50		23	
West	112		54	

Party leaders stated that while grooming workers is an ongoing process, efforts accelerate during election cycles. Special camps are being conducted to train women aspirants in everything from handling media and addressing public grievances to verifying the latest draft voters' lists.

AN Nataraj Gowda, Congress Chief Spokesperson, told *TNIE*, "We have received around 1,800 applications so far, over 800 of which are from women. These applicants range from grassroots party workers to relatives of established politicians. They will be scrutinised and finalised before the elections are announced. Our media, social media, and manifesto committees are all involved in the grooming process."

He added that because problems vary by ward, potential candidates are trained accordingly. "The media and social media wings train them on public speaking and digital presence. They are even taught to analyze voters' lists to identify supporters or neutral voters," he said.

Meanwhile, the AAP has received over 800 applications, including 500 from women. Ashok Mruthyunjaya, President of AAP's Mahadevapura Assembly unit, said: "Our women's wing is already grooming leaders. The focus is on training them to present facts to news channels, participate in debates, and solve issues at the grassroots and booth levels." Bengaluru North BJP President S Harish noted that while the party has received over 150 applications, the final count of women is being tabulated. "The party has already held shibiras (camps) for aspirants and booth-level agents. They have been trained to check the draft voters' list for names and jurisdictions. A candidate's credentials, party ideology, and their ability to highlight the opposition's failures will play a major role in final selection," he said.

Meanwhile, the JDS is yet to start on the election strategy. KA Thippeswamy, former JDS MLC, said: "It is difficult for the party to find potential candidates for the GBA elections, and historically our number of corporators in the city has been low. We are yet to call for applications. Once that is done, we shall begin training women leaders."

'Cycle Library' to help govt school kids

Bengaluru: The public came together and collected funds to donate 25 cycles to Cheemangala Government High School students in Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur district. With only one or two government buses and no provision of cycles from the state government, the students were arriving at 10.30 am when the classes begin at 9 am. Shivakumar M, the math teacher, said, "There is one government bus, but it arrives late. When the students return home in the evening, it is dark and unsafe. Many students walk home or ask strangers for a lift, further increasing the risk. The alumni, teachers and panchayat members decided to donate cycles to 25 kids who travel 8 to 15 km every day." The school calls it a 'cycle library' where students can borrow cycles instead of books. "The students must return the cycles to the school, so that they can be passed to other students in need," the teacher added. In case of damage, the parents must cover the costs before returning them. — **Rashmi Patil**

Water woes haunt B'luru even before summer sets in

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

SUMMER is yet to begin, but Bengaluru's water woes have already begun plaguing a few localities, forcing residents to depend on expensive water tankers. VV Puram in Basavanagudi, Nanjappa layout in Shantinagar, Frazer town, Kalkere in Ramamurthy Nagar are some of the areas facing water shortage.

Residents have complained about water shortage and fear that it is going to get worse for them as harsh summer sets in.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Speaking to *TNIE*, Kochu Shankar, a resident of Kalkere, said, "There were four borewells in our locality and all of them have failed. BWSSB is supposed to supply Cauvery water for three days a week, but we get it for only three hours once or twice a week. The pressure of water flow is low. We depending on water tankers that costs us Rs 800 for 6,000 litres. It will get more expensive in the summers and the quality of water is also compromised. There is no facility of water tankers from BWSSB to our localities for reasons unknown."

V V Puram which is part of old Bengaluru is not new to water woes from the past few months. V J Prasad, a member of RWA, said, "Despite the flow of water being low and no supply weeks, people still waste a lot of water washing cars and clean verandas of their homes. It is the biggest concern for our locality now. BWSSB must start imposing huge penalties like the previous year, for wasting water."

Meanwhile, a resident from Nanjappa Layout in Shantinagar, Govindraj said, "I pay Rs 1,400 to get water from tankers. It is sufficient only for three days and I must pay again to get more. Being a pensioner, it is difficult for me to afford costly tankers. Last week, we didn't receive water from BWSSB at all."

Abdul Shakeeb, a resident of Fraser Town, said "localities around Fraser town like MM Road, Budh Vihar, St Stephen's road and others have always had water issues as the pipes installed during the British era have corroded and cannot handle high pressure of water flow. Due to this, we have already started buying water from tankers."

KSRTC hikes luggage fare by 15%

Bengaluru: Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) revised rates for its luggage transport services, with the revised fares effective from today (Monday). A 15% hike has been issued, commensurate with a 15% hike in passenger tickets. KSRTC circular from February 12 states, "in view of the increased expenses pertaining to diesel, staff and other elements, the rates of luggage carried in the corporation's buses have been revised". Luggage weighing up to 30 kg will be transported free of charge, with the revised rates being applied over the weight value.

SUMMER BITE

A man enjoys a slice of watermelon in Bengaluru on a sunny Sunday, as temperatures rise across the state | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

GBA not battling illegal banner mafia, say activists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA High Court directives and its rap on the knuckles of the Bengaluru civic body on illegal posters and banners of political leaders seem not to have had any impact. With the election to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), as per the directions of the Supreme Court, coming up soon and major festivals ahead, the eyesore will only increase. The posters that are already dotting the city are being removed by the GBA on a war footing. But activists demand that the GBA file FIRs and impose heavy fines against perpetrators to deter them from indulging in such practice.

A civic activist, H Eshwarappa, representing B.Clip organisation, said officials from all the five city corporations under GBA are responsible for the increasing menace of illegal banners. "Banners hanging from poles are causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians at a few places. Volunteers have been working across Bengaluru. We will approach the Lokayukta with evidence and put corporation commissioners and officials on the mat for their failure to prevent illegal publicity," he said.

S Subramanya, a former professor at the University of Agriculture Science, Bengaluru, said, "In the US, hoardings are banned on highways as they divert the attention of drivers, leading to accidents. It is high time that strong action is taken against such advertisements in Bengaluru."

Though initially a few cases against illegal flexes were filed and fines running up to Rs 50,000 were slapped, the drive petered out. After the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was split into five city corporations, the inaction of officials against such banners and posters is evident, said activists and residents.

Stray policy: Activists asks CM to follow WHO rules

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

WITH the GBA mulling and refining its stance on handling stray dogs in the city, in line with the Supreme Court's suo motu order to restrict strays from institutional spaces, city-based activists have written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging the government to follow the due process and adopt World Health Organisation (WHO)-approved measures. The concerns also stem from the GBA's recent decision to curtail the number of pet dogs a household can keep.

A delegation met Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Anjum Parvez, urging the government to adhere to WHO-mandated birth control procedures. The letter by activists and rescuers from organisations like the People for Animals (Bengaluru) and Akhil Karnataka Prani Daya Sangha holds the state government constitutionally responsible as custodians of stray dogs and their welfare.

The letter states that pounds and shelters are no place to abandon stray animals. "Indiscriminate detention, relocation or elimination under the pretext of aggression is scientifically unsound and counterproductive, as it destabilises territorial balance, invites unvaccinated replacement populations, and heightens public health risks," it says.

The activists also highlighted the increasing threat faced by community feeders — many of whom are women or senior citizens — following the Supreme Court's order. Animal rescuer Sujatha Prasanna, who co-wrote the letter, termed the GBA's move to restrict the number of dogs per household a flawed measure that bypasses effective enforcement of animal birth control rules across the city. "What about those who already have more dogs than the mandated number? Are they expected to abandon them," she asked, adding the order may push owners to release pets onto the streets, increasing the stray population.

> **What about those who already have more dogs than the mandated number? Are they expected to abandon them. Order may push owners to release pets onto the streets, increasing the stray population**
>
> Sujatha Prasanna, animal rescuer

> **Indiscriminate detention, relocation or elimination under the pretext of aggression is scientifically unsound, as it destabilises territorial balance, invites unvaccinated replacement populations**
>
> Activists

Resident pledges to adopt 20 strays after corpn drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the Bengaluru North City Corporation facilitating adoption of stray dogs, a resident, Sujaya Jagadish, has pledged to care for 20 street dogs. Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said that all adopted dogs have been vaccinated (anti-rabies and combined vaccines), sterilised under the ABC programme, checked for health and tagged properly.

He said adopting street dogs contributes to humane population control, public health protection and overall animal welfare in the city. He appealed to citizens to come forward and adopt street dogs as part of their social responsibility.

Animal husbandry officials of the North City Corporation said Sujaya has assured them that she would provide proper food, shelter, medical care, and humane treatment to the adopted dogs.

The adoption process was carried out in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, following prescribed humane procedures.

The corporation will continue with the drive along with ABC and anti-rabies vaccination programmes. Interested citizens can contact the Animal Husbandry Department to adopt street dogs, the officials said.

For adoption enquiries:

Email: adyelahanka@gmail.com

Contact: Chief Veterinary Officer
Animal Husbandry Department
Bengaluru North City Corporation
Amruthahalli Main Road,
Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

16th February : Presidential Trine Mercury and Jupiter form an auspicious trine reminiscent of the unfinished pyramid on the back of the U.S. dollar. Is there luck in a buck? It depends on what you do with it. The American presidents celebrated today remain icons of stewardship – temporary hands shaping a structure meant to outlast them, measured not by accumulation but by how well liberty and justice are extended to all.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The thing you used to do for fun may seem to lack luster. Ask the silver spoon -- exposure tarnishes shiny things. So you venture out, open to the gleam of new interests. Give this one a rest for now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Step back from the things or people that consistently stress or destabilize you. It's self-protection if it's purposeful and reflective. In your heart, you know the difference between conserving energy and avoiding discomfort.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Be cautious of anyone who profits by convincing you that a complex human problem has a simple, purchasable fix. If the thing you're struggling with could truly be solved by a product, the fix wouldn't be secret. It would already be everywhere.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Self-esteem isn't inflated self-regard. It's realistic self-regard plus self-acceptance. Today, your super talent is seeing yourself clearly, strengths and limits included, and staying on your own side anyway. Positive interactions help, but it's how those interactions are interpreted that matters most.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
It feels like you're too busy to ask a lot of questions of the moment. But it's worth it to be a little curious today because one good question is the difference between routine and fun. Learning a bit more gives the task (and the people involved) texture. Life becomes vivid.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
The long story and the short story are essentially the same, except one is harder to follow as it meanders, repeats and requires a nearly saintly level of patience. Your way of asking for and delivering brevity is effective, respectful and attractive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You're preparing for an event that will inevitably come, though perhaps you don't yet know when. Time for another round of practice. Challenges are training moments. Experiments are thrilling gambles with knowledge as the prize.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Moving takes effort, but some actions wake and energize you. Thinking takes effort, too, but exciting thoughts give back. The trick to staying light, bright and buoyant is to choose actions and thoughts that leave you with a surplus.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Sometimes it takes crossing a line to realize where it is. It's the inspiration for building better rules, methods, fences, checklists, schedules and maps. You will come up with new ways to keep yourself in line and act in your own best interest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Your work will be most effectively aimed at one person. After all, there is no such thing as mass appeal. The appeal is to one person, many times over. And what's "for all" is more often "for none."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You say what you want to do, and then you do it. Sure, there are thoughts that drift through -- fear and doubt, fantasies about the options not taken -- all along for the ride as the tide of courage surges, and forward you go.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Your mind is an ally. Helpful thoughts only. Good sleep and nutrition make it easier. And if, for some reason, your thoughts won't behave, write out some good ones and feed them to yourself. It's forced but effective.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

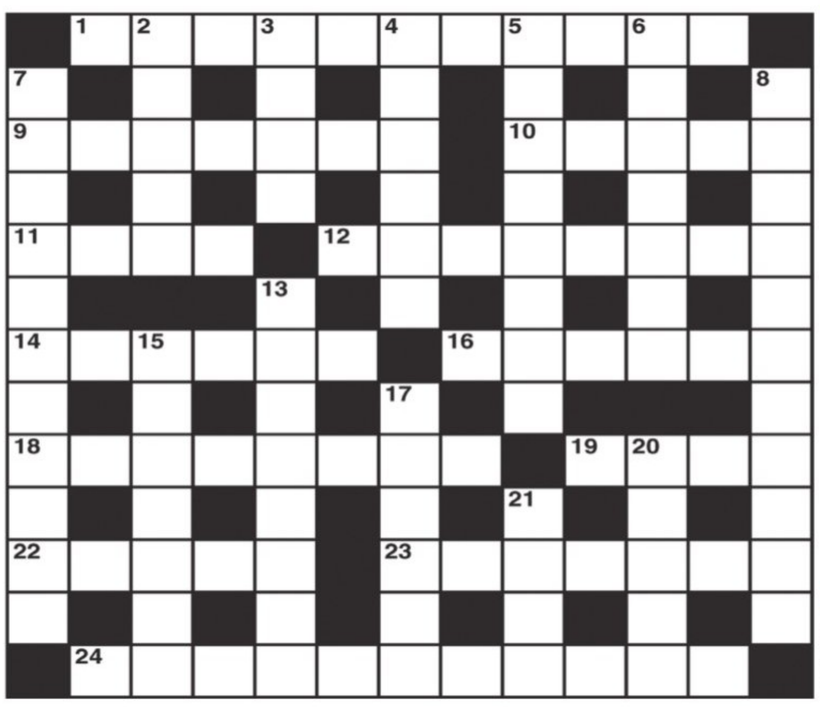
3		2						
6	8	7	9	2			4	
	4		7					
	1	6	3		2	8		4
		8		9		1		
2		4	8		5	9	3	
					9		1	
	2			5	6	4	8	3
						2		9

7	2	1	8	3	5	6	9	4
6	5	4	9	7	2	8	3	1
9	8	3	6	1	4	2	5	7
1	6	9	2	5	8	4	7	3
4	7	8	1	6	3	9	2	5
5	3	2	4	9	7	1	8	6
8	4	7	5	2	6	3	1	9
3	9	6	7	8	1	5	4	2
2	1	5	3	4	9	7	6	8

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Cold game? (6,5)
9 Excuse the introduction (7)
10 Pure conversion to Eastern currency (5)
11 It helps to make shoes wear well (4)
12 Offer for money (8)
14 Hired hands? (6)
16 Stop in the name of the law (6)
18 Youth with no head for multiplication (8)
19 Just a French mother (4)
22 Gold piece is circular (5)
23 Where in December it really can be hot (7)
24 It may be taken as an indication of health (11)

DOWN
2 Schemes thrown aside (5)
3 Bound to mean a change of diet (4)
4 A quick reply from the laboratory? (6)
5 Go into liquidation when working hard (8)
6 Put out in unusual transport (7)
7 Diligence with which one may seek a job (11)
8 A style we had remodelled acts as a guide (5,3,3)
13 Period added to the end of a sentence (4,4)
15 Can I provide a friendly solution? (7)
17 Conclude with a feature on charm (6)
20 In which one is mistaken (5)
21 Number in an outfit worn by Scotsmen (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Filter, 4 Assemble, 9 Ignore, 10 Dandruff, 12 Gown, 13 Under, 14 Idol, 17 Movable feast, 20 Stage whisper, 23 Emus, 24 Trunk, 25 Onus, 28 Achilles, 29 Polite, 30 Tosspots, 31 Plight.

Down: 1 Fair game, 2 Long wave, 3 Earn, 5 Siamese twins, 6 Ends, 7 Bounds, 8 Enfold, 11 Undergarment, 15 Abate, 16 Astir, 18 Spanking, 19 Prospect, 21 Repast, 22 Rushes, 26 Slap, 27 Noel.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

SUHEO
BOTAO
REIPTM
GBREIG

Do you think these will be a hit with your team?
They don't even have to be baked. Tastes like a home run to me.
12/22
WHILE MAKING CUPCAKES FOR HER SON'S BASEBALL TEAM, SHE SAID ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ○○○○○○ ○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: YEAST HARSH ACCENT DRIVER
Answer: How he ended up with poison ivy on his scalp was a — HEAD-SCRATCHER

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

03
BENGALURU
MONDAY
16■02■2026

A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

A Thousand Days Many Ways

Siddaramaiah's government marks 1000 days of people-centric governance.

N. Chaluvaraya Swamy cites welfare expansion and structural reforms at 1,000-day milestone

Agriculture Minister cites guarantee rollout, farm modernisation and financial stability drive as hallmarks of Congress governance

As the Congress government in Karnataka completes 1,000 days in office, Congress MLA and Agriculture Minister **N. Chaluvaraya Swamy** reflects on the administration's achievements, challenges and future priorities. In an exclusive interaction with ***The New Indian Express***, he speaks about the rollout of the five guarantee schemes, agricultural reforms, drought relief, Mandya's growth story, and the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar.

Q: The Congress government has completed 1,000 days in Karnataka. How do you look at this milestone?

I am very happy that we have got this opportunity to serve the people. In these 1,000 days, I have done something that had not been achieved since Independence - bringing a Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya to Mandya. As Agriculture Minister, I consider this a major achievement.

Earlier, many schemes such as pension programmes reached only a limited section of people. Today, our rural schemes have achieved 100% coverage in rural areas and 60–70% coverage in urban areas. Our five guarantee schemes are reaching everyone. Every needy family in the state is receiving rice. That is a significant accomplishment of our government.

Q: What progress has the government made in the agriculture sector?

In the agriculture sector, our focus has been on mechanisation and value addition. We have provided subsidies worth ₹ 1,500 crore for agricultural machinery.

We have also given subsidies of ₹ 15 lakh each to nearly 8,000 groups for value addition and processing initiatives. Additionally, we have cleared crop insurance claims worth ₹ 6,000 crore, which has brought relief to farmers.

> We approached the Supreme Court and secured ₹ 3,454 crore for farmers. That was an achievement for us and a blackmark against the Centre for not supporting the state in a crisis.
> *— N. Chaluvaraya Swamy*

Our aim is not just development, but empowering farmers, women and youth. We are stressing on quality production and encouraging farmers to become entrepreneurs and industrialists.

Q: How do you assess Mandya's development during this period?

Today, our taluk ranks number one in the state in terms of per capita income. Welfare schemes have played a major role in this achievement. There is financial stability in families, and that is what true development means.

Q: The Opposition claims the government has not delivered on development. How do you respond?

The Opposition does not make claims based on statistics. The media has a great responsibility in presenting facts. If you compare the last five years of the BJP government with our tenure, we have performed better.

We have implemented guarantee schemes, spent significantly on development, and in many sectors doubled or even tripled the development compared to them.

Q: What were the major challenges faced by your government initially?

We faced severe drought earlier. During that time, the Centre did not provide adequate assistance. We approached the Supreme Court and secured ₹ 3,454 crore for farmers. That was an achievement for us and a blackmark against the Centre for not supporting the state in a crisis.

Q: What is the government's roadmap going forward?

Our guarantee schemes will continue. Development will continue. Women, farmers and youth will remain our focus. Our goal is to ensure financial stability for every family.

We want reforms that improve farmers' lives and stand by them during droughts, floods and market volatility. Financial stability should become a revolution. If we strengthen farmer families, other sections of society will also benefit. We must ensure that rural families have access to basic needs.

Q: If elections were held tomorrow, how confident is the Congress of a victory?

We do not work for votes; we work for people. Leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah, and D.K. Shivakumar are clear about this. We believe people will support us based on our work.

Q: How do you assess the leadership of Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar?

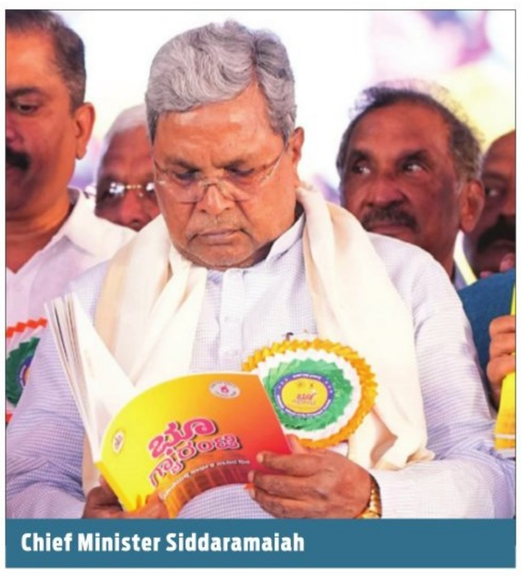
Siddaramaiah is a good administrator and a financial expert. His welfare schemes are among the best in the country. D.K. Shivakumar is a seasoned organiser and a troubleshooter. Together, they provide strong leadership to the state.

1. Siddaramaiah completed 1,000 days with a strong push on welfare guarantees.
2. The government expanded direct benefit and food security coverage statewide.
3. Farm mechanisation and crop insurance relief were prioritised.
4. Drought response and fiscal management remained key focus areas.
5. The administration projects inclusive growth and household financial stability as its core achievements.

From guarantees to governance: Karnataka's 1,000-day report card of welfare, reform & growth

When the Indian National Congress returned to power in Karnataka in 2023 with 135 of 224 Assembly seats, it promised "transformative governance" anchored in five guarantees. One thousand days later, the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar marked the milestone as proof of "Promises Made. Promises Delivered."

The anniversary, observed on February 13, was more than a measure of time. It was projected as a referendum on a governance model that blends large-scale welfare, constitutional commitment and employment-led growth. A public event in Haveri, where title deeds were distributed to over one lakh beneficiaries, underscored the government's welfare-first narrative even as political debates continued over fiscal sustainability and leadership dynamics.



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar

Five Guarantees at the Core

At the heart of the government's agenda are its five pre-poll guarantees: Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyothi, Gruha Lakshmi, Shakti and Yuva Nidhi.

According to official figures cited in the Republic Day 2026 address delivered by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, over ₹ 1.13 lakh crore has been disbursed under these schemes so far. During 2024-25 alone, 13.7 million families received direct financial benefits through one or another state scheme. The guarantees form a major component of the state's annual revenue expenditure, which stands at around ₹ 1.12 lakh crore aimed at supporting vulnerable sections and energising the economy.

The Anna Bhagya scheme strengthens food security by ensuring free food grains to eligible families. Gruha Jyothi provides free electricity within prescribed limits, enhancing energy security. Gruha Lakshmi extends ₹ 2,000 per month to women heads of economically weaker households, reinforcing financial dignity. Shakti offers free bus travel for women, significantly easing mobility barriers. Yuva Nidhi provides unemployment allowance to graduate youth, offering interim support while they seek work.

The Governor noted that several studies indicate increased purchasing power and financial empowerment among families as a result of these initiatives. Women beneficiaries across districts reported that Shakti and Gruha Lakshmi reduced household strain, particularly in rural areas, enabling spending on education, healthcare and nutrition.

From Welfare to Employment Ecosystem

Beyond direct transfers, the government has sought to reposition welfare as a bridge to employment. In speeches at job fairs, Siddaramaiah stressed that employment creation is the government's priority, highlighting skill training aligned with industry demand.

The administration's youth employment strategy combines financial assistance under Yuva Nidhi, skill enhancement through Yuva Nidhi Plus, direct recruitment facilitation through Udyoga Melas and systematic government recruitment drives. The Governor's address outlined a ₹ 1,000 crore Local Economy Accelerator Programme aimed at creating five lakh jobs over five years. Additionally, ₹ 83,000 crore in capital expenditure has been directed toward employment generation.

Karnataka's technology ambitions were also emphasised. A Karnataka Quantum Roadmap envisions building a $20 billion quantum economy by 2035. Projects worth ₹ 1.5 lakh crore are underway in Bengaluru alone, indicating a dual-track approach: immediate welfare support coupled with long-term economic growth.

Constitution as Compass

Siddaramaiah's government believes in Constitutional principles.

Siddaramaiah has always underscored that the Constitution guarantees social, economic and political justice, equality of status and opportunity, and freedom of thought, expression, belief and worship. He describes it as a transformative document designed to dismantle entrenched hierarchies.

Drawing a historical parallel, he has several times recalled the Anubhava Mantapa established by Basavanna nearly 800 years ago, calling it an early model of democratic deliberation where even the most marginalised could speak freely. He contrasted this egalitarian tradition with what he termed an "unwritten constitution of inequality" that prevailed before independence.

That inequitable social order, he says, denies property, knowledge and dignity to Shudras, women and so-called untouchables. The written Constitution drafted by B. R. Ambedkar replaced that system with one rooted in equality and human dignity.

Ambedkar's two warnings to future rulers - to protect political democracy and progressively achieve economic democracy - are highlighted as guiding principles. Siddaramaiah argues that true national strength comes from economic equality and social justice, not political democracy alone.

Directive Principles and Policy

Linking policy to constitutional directives, the Chief Minister cites Article 39's emphasis on the right to livelihood and Article 15(3), which empowers the State to enact special provisions for women and children. Article 47, mandating improved nutrition and public health, is invoked to justify the government's guarantee schemes as constitutional obligations rather than mere political promises.

"Eliminating poverty, ill health, illiteracy and malnutrition is the responsibility of an elected government," he says, asserting that poverty is not a crime but the result of unequal distribution of wealth and opportunity.

> By invoking Ambedkar's vision of economic democracy and Basavanna's egalitarian ethos, Siddaramaiah has framed his administration's work as part of a larger historical and constitutional journey.

The Governor, during his Republic Day speech, echoed this constitutional tone, stating that preserving the federal structure and protecting democracy through dialogue are collective responsibilities. "If we protect the Constitution, the Constitution will protect us," he remarked.

Savings and Social Impact

The government claims that economically weaker families are saving between ₹ 5,000 and ₹ 6,000 per month - amounting to ₹ 60,000 to ₹ 70,000 annually - due to the guarantee schemes. Even middle and upper-middle-class households are estimated to save ₹ 25,000 to ₹ 30,000 annually through reduced electricity bills, free bus travel and youth allowances.

These savings, officials argue, are being redirected toward education, healthcare and small investments, creating a multiplier effect in the local economy. The administration frames this as a shift from charity to empowerment.

Challenges and Criticism

Yet the 1,000-day journey has not been without turbulence. The opposition has alleged irregularities in cases such as the Valmiki Development Corporation issue and MUDA site allotments, allegations the government has firmly denied. Concerns about fiscal strain have also surfaced, with critics arguing that high welfare spending could constrain capital investment.

Political observers also point to unresolved leadership speculation within the state unit of the Congress, though both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have publicly affirmed unity and deferred to the party high command.

Administrative and Infrastructure Push

The Republic Day address also catalogued administrative achievements. Over 80 percent of long-pending revenue court cases have been disposed of. A total of 91,163 podis have been completed, and 4,050 unrecorded villages have been declared as revenue villages, bringing them into formal administrative frameworks.

On the energy front, agreements have been signed to procure 3,704 MW of electricity from private companies, while state-owned firms have action plans to generate an additional 4,794 MW. Several cities - including Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Shivamogga and Davanagere - are emerging as health hubs.

In education, recommendations of the Dr. Sukhdeo Thorat Committee are being implemented, aimed at improving equity and access.

The Road to 2028

As Karnataka looks toward the 2028 Assembly elections, the 1,000-day milestone serves as both a report card and a campaign narrative. For supporters, it represents accountable governance rooted in constitutional values and tangible relief for millions. For critics, it raises questions about sustainability and long-term fiscal balance.

For now, the government's message remains clear: welfare and development are not opposites but complementary pillars of governance. By invoking Ambedkar's vision of economic democracy and Basavanna's egalitarian ethos, Siddaramaiah has framed his administration's work as part of a larger historical and constitutional journey.

One thousand days on, the verdict ultimately rests not in speeches or statistics, but in whether citizens feel the promised transformation in their daily lives.

Hearty congratulations to the Honorable Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah on completing 1,000 days in office

Shri Basavaraja Rayareddi

It is a moment of pride that Shri Siddaramaiah has completed 1,000 days in his second term as Chief Minister on 14 February 2026. As of 06.01.2026, he has served a total of 2,793 days in office—the longest tenure in Karnataka's history.

Born into a poor farming family, he experienced hardship firsthand. Guided by his commitment to social justice, he implemented the Anna Bhagya Yojana within 24 hours of assuming office in his first term, advancing the vision of a hunger-free Karnataka and influencing food security reforms nationally.

Since first being elected MLA in 1983, he has served the people for over four decades, elected nine times and serving in key roles including Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and Chief Minister.

After the Congress Party's decisive 2023 mandate of 136 seats, his government launched the historic Pancha Guarantee schemes—Annabhagya, Gruhalakshmi, Gruha Jyoti, Shakti, and Yuvanidhi—strengthening support for women, youth, farmers, and vulnerable communities. Thousands of crores have been invested in direct benefits, free bus travel for women, food security, and youth assistance, improving livelihoods across the state.

Karnataka today leads India in per capita income, surpassing the national growth average. Major initiatives such as enhanced compensation under UKP-3, support for SC/ST communities through population-based allocations, grants for Kalyan Karnataka, new Morarji schools, strengthening KMF with ₹ 15 per litre incentives, and fiscal discipline reflect balanced governance.

Having presented 16 state budgets and set to present his 17th, Shri Siddaramaiah continues to lead Karnataka with stability, inclusivity, and resolve.

On this milestone, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and unwavering confidence in his continued leadership.

— Shri Basavaraja Rayareddi, MLA and Economic Advisor to the Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

The Federation of Karnataka State Farmers' Associations, led by its president Kurubur Shantakumar, staged a protest in Mysuru on Sunday, opposing the US-India trade agreement. Shantakumar said the free trade agreement with the United States will be the "death knell" for Indian farmers

WHY ROCKET SCIENCE IS ROCKET SCIENCE

PIC: KEVIN NASHON

EXPRESS Dialogues

ADVANCES in space-based applications have helped India strengthen its food security, communications, navigation and overall national infrastructure. In an interaction with *The New Indian Express*, Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium Director **BV Guruprasad** says space science is complex and demands seamless integration of multiple engineering disciplines, but the trajectory of India's space research remains strong despite setbacks of late. Excerpts...

What is the state of the Indian space sector currently?
Before 2020, things were a bit different because most of the work pertaining to space was being done by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Then, the government brought in major reforms in the private sector. It created certain agencies like NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), whose mandate is to market India's space capabilities. In the meantime, the private sector was already established. For example, Godrej & Boyce has been working with ISRO in developing engines for launch vehicles like the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Then you have around 300 space research-based startups in India. For regularisation of all these elements, IN-SPACe was created as a regulatory body to help the space sector grow over the years.

Where do you see India in the next 10 years?
India has made remarkable progress in space research and continues to set ambitious goals. Upcoming missions include Chandrayaan-4 and Chandrayaan-5 in collaboration with Japan, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station and the Man on Moon mission that aim for a sustained presence in space. Space is complex and demands seamless integration of multiple engineering disciplines. But despite setbacks, the trajectory of India's space research remains strong and optimistic.

What about the setbacks?
Space is not for the faint hearted. Rocket science is not easy. Every launch brings butterflies in the stomach of people who launch it. Space is a seamless confluence of many engineering departments, including mechanical, computer science, electrical and electronics, AI and ML, communications, chemical and civil engineering. Inevitably, there are temporary setbacks.

How is the funding for space research in India compared to other countries?
The government has been supportive since the beginning. The Indian National Committee on Space Research was formed when China attacked India. Even under such difficult circumstances, a space programme was organised. It has grown by leaps and bounds. The funding is around $1.5 billion. NASA's budget is $24-25 billion. Unofficial reports say that China dedicates around $13-14 billion to its space programme.

Are the funds enough?
We have accomplished Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan within Rs 400 crore, which is not easy. We have proved that such missions can be accomplished at a modest cost. Let us not compare.

Why is India slow compared to other countries in launches and achieving targets?
It depends on the perspective of what is considered slow or fast. In the 1960s, the United States accelerated the Apollo programme due to Cold War pressure. Today, competition is different, often driven by commercial urgency. India's approach has focused first on meeting national requirements rather than racing timelines. ISRO traditionally handled most space activities, but now the private sector and startups have been brought in to enhance capacity and expand India's share in the global space economy. With this transition under way, it is reasonable to allow time for these reforms and new players to demonstrate results.

Globally, where do we stand? What is our ranking?
Comparisons must be seen in the context of budgets. Agencies like NASA and China's space programme operate with significantly larger funding than India. If India had similar resources and failed to match their accomplishments, then the comparison would be fair. However, given the resources allocated, India's achievements are highly significant. Only a few countries — the United States, Russia, China, Japan, France and India — possess end-to-end capability to design, develop, test, integrate, launch and manage large satellites. With missions such as Chandrayaan-3, India has demonstrated comprehensive expertise, placing it among leading global space powers.

What role does the space sector play in the defence and agricultural sector?
I cannot comment much on the defence sector. However, satellites play a crucial role in comprehensive security, beyond purely military needs. In agriculture, their contribution has been significant since the experimental Bhaskar Earth observation satellites. Today, they help estimate crop acreage, predict yields and detect early diseases. From the 1970s to the latest indigenous remote sensing satellites, India has strengthened its food security, communications, navigation and overall national infrastructure through space-based applications.

What is the significance of new telescopes which the Union government announced and what role will they play in future?
Building telescopes is a complex, long-term engineering effort that cannot be rushed. India has world-class facilities like the Hanle telescope and the Udaipur Solar Observatory. Scientific infrastructure takes years of planning and patience.

What is Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP) doing to keep science alive in young minds?
India has achieved a lot in space research; but the youth of today have to take it forward. We have programmes which are part of our non-formal science education infrastructure. We have programmes for students at different levels. For students in Grades 3–5, we have a programme called Tiny Tots that runs during summer holidays. For Grades 6-7, we have Fun with Science. These two are grouped and called SEED (Science Education at the Elementary Developmental level). For high school students and those in Classes 11 and 12, there is a weekly Science Over the Weekend (SOW) programme. Faculty from JNP and other institutions provide training which also includes practicals. For the undergrads, there is the Research Education Advancement Programme (REAP).

Which institutions are onboard?
We have onboarded faculty from International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and some private educational institutions like Christ University.

Are these programmes only for private schools, or do government school students also participate in large numbers?
All programmes are open to everyone. They are not limited to private school students. Government school students participate actively in large numbers across all the initiatives. We are committed to inclusivity and equal opportunity for students from all backgrounds. In addition, we run a dedicated programme called Taralaya Pravasa, designed exclusively for government school students from any part of Karnataka, strengthening their participation in science outreach.

What are the retention rates for these programmes? Do students drop out before completion?
There are cases where dropouts occur due to various reasons, but students who have a genuine inclination toward research continue. The advanced programmes are rigorous and involve faculty from various professional institutions. While minor dropouts are inevitable, committed students remain engaged and pursue research seriously.

What about popularisation of science?
An integral component is our sky show, which runs twice a day. We also have Sun and its Family show, explaining the solar system. On weekends, the Dawn of the Space Age show runs. We are working to launch a show on the Chandrayaan. We have science exhibitions called Science in Action. We create and launch water rockets with children. Also, whenever there is a launch by ISRO, a live telecast with bilingual commentary in English and Kannada is done in simple language for people to understand.

Can you tell us about the rural penetration in popularising space?
We reach rural students by conducting workshops outside the planetarium and are working closely with the Science and Technology Department. Recently, 823 simple reflector telescopes were distributed to residential government schools. With the help of experts from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, workshops for teachers were conducted on how to use these telescopes. The fundamentals of telescopes were also explained to them. These efforts are part of a mission-mode initiative to strengthen science education in rural and semi-urban regions and ensure that students who cannot visit the planetarium gain hands-on exposure to astronomy.

Are parents seeing science beyond engineering and medicine as a viable career path?
Parents today appreciate science, but career prospects continue to shape their preferences. Engineering still offers the widest range of opportunities and even within engineering, students gravitate towards software and emerging fields like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. While research opportunities are growing and the government is making significant efforts to promote scientific careers, many families view engineering and medicine as more stable and financially secure paths. Encouraging a broader understanding of science as a field with diverse career avenues remains an ongoing challenge.

Don't you think that we need more planetariums in Tier 2 and 3 cities as there are only smaller telescopes in libraries?
Apart from mobile planetariums, the state government has established planetariums in other cities. There are many other smaller cities where they are establishing regular planetariums. Establishing them might be easier but running them properly is not that easy a job.

With the State Budget approaching, are there any specific requirements for the planetarium? Are you satisfied with the current budgetary allocation?
The planetarium is seeking support to upgrade its projection system, though the chairman has expressed satisfaction with current allocations. A significant portion of expenses is met from grants from the Department of Science and Technology.

RSS an evil spirit, BJP its shadow, says Priyank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge compared the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to an "evil spirit" whose shadow is the BJP. "RSS is a devil, but we are fighting its shadow (BJP). If we beat the devil, our country will flourish," he said at a book release event here on Sunday.

Kharge said the BJP without RSS will fare worse than the regional party JDS. "ndia's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval called upon the youth to avenge injustice. One of his sons is an American citizen while the other is in the United Kingdom. Those who are wearing saffron shawl and talking about the country, how many of their children are working for the nation? Do their children go to any goshala? Or do they fight for Hinduism on the streets? They do not. They are well settled outside India. Safeguarding cattle and religion are on the shoulders of the poor," he said.

He noted that while RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat urged Hindus to have three children for the survival of Hinduism, he remains a bachelor. "Do those who follow Manuvaada uplold the Constitution? RSS is 52 years old and they have not hoisted the Tricolour on their offices. RSS has a network of over 2,500 organisations across the world and get money from them. These people are into money laundering. Where are they getting the money from? They want us to be civilised and pay taxes, but they are out of this ambit. It will be a problem if we do not question this,'' he said.

Kharge said that because of communal issues, investors are hesitant to set up IT-BT companies in Dakshina Kannada district.

Taking to social media, he stated that BJP and RSS want the youth to "avenge injustice" by taking to the streets.

He posted, "They provoke violence and bloodshed and ruin the future of the youth, while their children study abroad, become industrialists and venture capitalists and then lecture the world about Bharat. Why don't we see BJP leaders children in Khaki chaddis wielding lathis protecting Dharma and Gaumata?"

PRAYERS & POLITICS

JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda and his son, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, offer prayers on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri at Tirumala Giri Temple at JP Nagar in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Ashoka slams state govt over contractors' dues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition R Ashoka slammed the state government for not paying contractors their due of Rs 37,000 crore. "This is a government that finds funds for publicity, appeasement and political management, but claims helplessness when it comes to paying those who built our roads, schools, hospitals and public infrastructure. This is more than just financial mismanagement, this is betrayal," he said.

The BJP leader said, "When lakhs of workers and thousands of contractors are waiting for their hard-earned dues, the government chooses apathy over accountability. Rs 37,000 crore in pending payments is not a minor administrative lapse, it is fiscal collapse."

The contractors are not large and rich companies, he said. "They are local contractors, engineers, suppliers and daily wage workers who executed government works in good faith. Many have mortgaged homes, pledged family gold and borrowed at high interest rates to complete public projects. Today, instead of clearing dues, this government is forcing them to protest on the streets."

Ashoka stressed that if the government cannot honour its commitments, it has no moral right to govern. "Delayed payments mean stalled projects, job losses and economic slowdown across the state. The ripple effect of this irresponsibility will hurt Karnataka's growth and credibility," he added.

Amid leadership change buzz, CM to meet SC MLAs

Bengaluru: Amid speculation over a change in leadership ahead of the State Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will hold meeting with Congress MLAs from the Scheduled Caste community on Monday. Sources said the move is aimed at consolidating support from legislators and the community before he presents the Budget on March 6. After concluding meetings with department heads and ministers last week, the CM also scheduled consultations with various organisations, including commercial, transport and excise associations, and will continue stakeholder meetings this week before finalising the 2026-27 budget draft. **ENS**

BJP state chief BY Vijayendra meets the family of MLA Byrathi Basavaraj on Sunday

MLA Basavaraj sent to 7 days police custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER minister and BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj has been remanded to seven days in police custody in connection with the murder of rowdy sheeter-turned-realtor Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shiva, after doctors at Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research certified him medically fit.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested the KR Puram MLA at Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday evening after he landed from Ahmedabad, hours after the Supreme Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

On Friday, CID officials produced Basavaraj before the Special Court for cases against sitting and former MPs/MLAs. After Basavaraj's advocate raised concerns about his heart-related issues, the court referred him for a medical examination at Jayadeva Hospital. Doctors on Sunday declared him fit. Basavaraj was subsequently produced before Judge Shivakumar at the latter's residence on Sunday.

The police had sought nine days custody of Basavaraj, however, his advocate objected. The court then granted seven days of police custody.

Basavaraj's counsel requested permission to provide him home-cooked food, but the court instructed the defence to file a formal application. The judge directed that food be provided to him in accordance with the diet chart prescribed by Jayadeva Hospital.

RTI ACTIVIST MOVES SC, CHALLENGES DATA PROTECTION LAW

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A Bengaluru-based Right to Information (RTI) activist has approached the Supreme Court, challenging provisions of the data protection framework, arguing that recent changes could undermine transparency and accountability in governance.

Venkatesh Nayak, also Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), has filed the petition in his personal capacity, seeking a judicial review of certain provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and related rules notified in 2025. Nayak told TNSE that there are "serious anomalies" in the law that, if left unaddressed, could have long-term consequences for democratic oversight. "In its current form, the law can become another major impediment to journalists, as their ability to keep information sources confidential may be adversely affected," he said.

His petition particularly contests amendments to the Right to Information Act, 2005 through Section 44 of DPDP Act. According to the plea, the revised provision broadens the exemption for "personal information," potentially allowing authorities to deny access to a wide range of data.

He argued that the earlier law required officials to apply a three-part test before withholding information -- assessing whether the data related to public activity, whether disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, and whether larger public interest justified release. The amendment, he contends, removes these safeguards and creates what he calls a "blanket bar" on disclosure. The petition warns that the new framework could shield information about beneficiaries of welfare programmes from public scrutiny under the pretext of privacy protection.

"Entire swathes of information relating to delivery of public services may become inaccessible, weakening social audits and accountability," Nayak said. He also expressed concern that RTI users and activists would find it difficult to seek accountability, as personal information contained in government records could become secret "by default mode"

Filed as a public interest petition, the plea contends that the contested provisions violate citizens' fundamental right to information. It further challenges provisions granting exemptions to government agencies from data protection obligations, which could enable surveillance without adequate safeguards, the structure and appointment process of the Data Protection Boar. It also alleges excessive executive control over a body performing quasi-judicial functions and lack of statutory clarity in defining what constitutes a 'significant' data breach, which the plea says leaves room for arbitrary enforcement.

Nayak said the objective was to ensure that privacy protections do not override the public's right to know.

The carcass of a six-year old male tiger was found at Gundal dam by a tourist in the Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve. This marks the second tiger death in the region within a week. Forest officials and dog squad rushed to the spot to conduct a probe

Bike taxi pilots allege targeted harassment by auto drivers

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

BIKE taxi riders in the city have alleged a pattern of targeted harassment in which groups of auto drivers book bike taxis and confront riders at pick-up points, attempting to intimidate them into stopping work.

According to multiple riders, when they reach the pick-up point, auto drivers gather around them, create chaos, and pressurise to cancel the trip, delete the app, and abandon the job. Riders say they are being deliberately singled out, turning routine trips into tense and intimidating encounters.

Syed Lukman, a bike taxi rider, recounted being called to a location through a booked ride and then confronted by a group of auto drivers. "They told me to delete the application and not to do this job, saying we are taking away their livelihood," he said. Lukman added that he was not physically harmed but was warned that they would not spare him if he continued working. The fear of such confrontations has forced many bike taxi riders to alter their daily operations. Several riders now park metres away from the designated pick-up point and wait for customers to approach them, while others avoid certain areas altogether. They say these precautions are necessary to avoid being surrounded, threatened, or drawn into arguments.

Ravi (name changed), a bike taxi rider said, "We are usually alone, and the confrontation leads to unnecessary arguments. We are scared to accept requests in some areas because they may gang up on us," he added, noting that the anxiety has become part of his daily work. While riders emphasise that not all auto drivers are involved, they allege that some groups continue to gang up and create fear among bike taxi riders, raising serious concerns about their safety and the effectiveness of the High Court order permitting their operations.

CABBIES DEMAND UNIFORM MARKET REGULATION OF TAXIS AND FARES

Karnataka App-based Worker's Union (KAWU) and the Swabhimani Chalakara Trade Union (SCTU) launched a coordinated "Uninstall Rapido" campaign, seeking government regulation of bike taxi services and a level playing field for licensed auto-rickshaw and cab drivers. The KAWU and SCTU describe the protest as digital non-cooperation against alleged illegal operations and declining driver incomes, and that their demand is regulation, not a blanket ban on bike taxis. Union leaders alleged that two-wheelers with private number plates are being used for commercial passenger services in violation of transport norms, creating an unregulated market that undermines drivers operating under commercial permits. Rapido singled out as the first target, with unions claiming it pioneered bike taxi operations, prompting similar services from other platforms. Mohammed Inayath Ali, president of KAWU, said the campaign seeks enforcement of existing laws. "We are not against technology or new services. But when private vehicles operate commercially without following transport rules, it directly affects the livelihood of registered drivers," he said. Devraj, general secretary of SCTU, said drivers' earnings have sharply declined, and rising fuel costs and compliance expenses further strain livelihoods. He said, "Earlier we could earn Rs 1,500 a day. Now even Rs 500 is difficult. Single passengers prefer bike taxis, and autos are booked only when there are multiple passengers or luggage." The unions also alleged that app-based fare systems are opaque and often fall below government-notified rates. They claim more than 1,500 workers already uninstalled the app as part of the protest. Representatives warned that the campaign could expand to other aggregators if authorities fail to enforce transport rules and prevent illegal onboarding of private vehicles. They are planning a large-scale protest and intend to submit a memorandum demanding fare regulation, and social security protections for gig workers. **ENS**

DIVINE DESTINATION

Devotees gather to offer prayers on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri at Shivoham Shiva Temple on old Airport Road in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

4 youth die on the spot; blood samples collected

Dhanush | Keshava M | Lalith | Durga Prasad | Harshith C

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE five friends were heading towards Bengaluru around 11.30 pm when the driver, who was speeding, reportedly lost control of the vehicle and hit the divider. The car then jumped across to the other side of the road and crashed into the KSRTC bus (KA 06 F 1224) going from Bengaluru to Hubballi.

The impact completely damaged the front of the car. While four youth died on the spot, another succumbed to injuries at a hospital. The front portion of the bus too was damaged. However, all the 43 passengers on board escaped, while some sustained minor injuries. Based on a complaint filed by KSRTC bus driver Kemparaju, the Madanayakanahalli police registered a case against Keshav.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy told that whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol would be ascertained after the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report. The blood samples of the deceased have been collected.

Dhanush's mother Sunitha said, "He told me he would be back home in 10 minutes, but he never returned. He did not tell me where he was going." His father said that around 8.30 pm, Dhanush had taken his mother to a bakery and later stepped out, saying he would return shortly. "Among his friends, I knew only one person. I learnt about the accident around 6 am from his friends. I refused to believe it initially, but after seeing his tattoo, I confirmed it was our son," he said.

Lalith Kumar's mother Roopa said he had told her he was going to a temple and would return late. "We tried calling him multiple times, but he did not answer. When we contacted his friends, they said he would return in five minutes, but he never did", she said.

3-yr-old boy drowns during maternity shoot

ENS @ Bengaluru

A three-year-old boy drowned after falling into an artificial pond at Shire Photo Studio, a pre-wedding shoot location in Giddenahalli under the Madanayakanahalli police limits on Saturday afternoon. It is alleged that his mother was busy with the maternity photoshoot of her friend when the tragedy occurred.

The boy, Lakshmeer, was the son of Charan Raj, a private firm employee, and Swathi, a homemaker, who are residents of Amruthahalli Main Road.

The police said Swathi and Lakshmeer were at the studio around 2.30 pm. She allegedly left the child unattended for about 15 minutes during the photoshoot. It is suspected that, the child wandered off while playing, fell into the four-foot-deep pond, and drowned. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The postmortem was conducted at the Nelamangala Government Hospital on Sunday. Based on a complaint filed by the child's grandfather, Ramesh Babu, the Madanayakanahalli police registered a case. Raj is abroad and is expected to return on Monday.

EXPRESS READ

38-year-old man dies as BMTC bus hits 2-wheeler

Bengaluru: A 38-year-old died and his friend was critically injured after a speeding BMTC bus hit their two-wheeler and knocked them down while they were taking a U-turn in Nelamangala town on Sunday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Venkatesh (38) was pillion, and his injured friend as Girish (40) was riding the bike. Both are residents of Nelamangala and work in a private firm. Venkatesh died on the spot, while Girish is undergoing treatment. **ENS**

Officials yet to confirm it to us, says family

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE consulate added that it stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to the family, including coordination with local authorities and arrangements for the repatriation of the mortal remains to India. It stated that its consular officers are in contact with the family and will support them.

However, his family, who stay on 18th Main, D-Group Layout in Srigandadakaval in Bengaluru, continued to cling on to hope that the news on social media is false. The family and relatives said they have not received any confirmation directly from authorities. The parents are applying for visas to travel to the US.

"Until we receive authentic and official confirmation, we cannot say anything," a relative said TNIE. Saketh's father runs an electronics business and his business partner said that neither the US Embassy nor other official agencies have directly communicated concrete details to the family. "Only speculation is doing the rounds. His parents are in deep distress, but are still praying that the news is false. They are applying for visas to travel to the US," he said.

Saketh had moved to the United States in February 2025 to pursue an MS in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of California, after completing his BTech in Chemical Engineering from IIT Madras.

When there was no information on Saketh's whereabouts, the family had written to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking help. Immediately after, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh had communicated with the Ministry of External Affairs, seeking intervention.

SBI State Bank of India
Premises & Estate Department
Local Head Office, II Floor, Annex Building, No.65 St. Marks Road Bengaluru 560 001

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

State Bank of India invites E tender in TWO BID SYSTEM for Hiring and Maintenance of LED Digital Signage Boards under OPEX model from the bidders who have successfully provided similar services in any Public-sector undertaking/Commercial Bank for 3 years. For further details please log on to our website www.bank.sbi under SBI in the News > Procurement News or contact Premises & Estates Department, LHO Bengaluru on 080-2594 3103. The Bank reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason therefore. Last date for submission of technical/financial bid is 02.03.2026 before 3.00 PM.

Assistant General Manager, Premises & Estates Department,
Local Head Office, Bengaluru.

ಹೆಣ್ಣೂರು ಬಾಣಸವಾಡಿ ಕಾಸ್ಮೋಪಾಲಿಟನ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್
HENNUR BANASWADI COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
#CA-7, 80 Feet Rd, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-43
Ph:080 2545 2221

TENDER INVITATION

Hennur Banaswadi Cosmopolitan Club invites tenders for

Name Of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD
Tensile roof structure for swimming pool roof at our club premises	Rs. 52 Lakhs	₹ 120000

(DD in the name of Hennur Banaswadi Cosmopolitan Club)
Tender Cost: ₹ 5,000
Issue of Tender Forms: **From 16.02.26 @ 10:30 AM to 20.02.26 upto 05:00 PM**
Submission Deadline: **22.02.2026 @ 03:00 PM**
Opening of Tenders: **22.02.2026 @ 04:00 PM**

Date: 16-02-2026
Bengaluru

Sd/-
Dr. A B Subbaiah
President

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HDFC BANK HDFC BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013
Branch: #51, HDFC House, Kasturba Road, Bangalore 560 001
Tel:-080-41183000 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Mr. Sayongita K Bhosale (Borrower)** **EIT Services India Private Limited** **Designation:** CUST PROJ/PRG MGR **Department:** Software Exp, **Employee No:** 11567395 39-40 Electronics City, Konappana Agrahara Hosur Main Road, Electronics City, Bengaluru-560100 **Also at:** Flat No 902, Jr Nexus, Chandapura Anekal Road, Marsur, Bengaluru-562106. **Also at:** Flat No 105, Near Sitada Garden, Nakhate Wasti, Pune City, Kalewadi, Pune 411017. **Also at:** Flat-202-2nd Floor, River Residency Bldg I, S No Gat No.90p, B/H Fine Weigh Bridge, Dehu Alandi Road Chikhali Chinchwad East, Chikhali Pimpri Chinchwad 411062. **Also at:** Flat-C-904, Floor-9, S No 329, Marasur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bengaluru-562106.	**Loan A/c No. 641404372 Rs.43,47,885/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Five Only) as on 31.12.2025**	**06.02.2026** ..... **N.P.A. Date: (e) 03.11.2025**	**SCHEDULE - A :** All that piece and parcel of converted residential land measuring 1 Acre in Sy.No.329 situated at Marsur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, which is converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide No.ALN/SR(A)158/2003-04 dated 07-04-2004 passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Bangalore South Sub-Division, Bangalore; bounded on: **East :** Land in Sy. No. 14/1A, **West**: Chandapura - Anekal Road, **North**: Land belongs to S.P. Narayana Reddy, **South**: Land belongs to Bhadra Reddy. **SCHEDULE - B: Item No.1:** Residential Apartment: Apartment **No.904** in the Nineth Floor bearing Panchayath E katha no 150200101800421277 admeasuring super built up area of 1050 square feet consisting of 2 bedrooms attached 565 Terrace area and internal passages, situated in 'C' Block of the Residential Complex **"JR NEXUS"** along with exclusive right to use One Covered Ground Floor Car Parking no C-904 and One Open Ground Floor Car Parking No C-904 **Item No. 2:** An undivided share **387.60 Square Feet** in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property.

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 16.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002

ICL Fincorp Join ICL, Grow with us

This is an advertisement issued pursuant to Regulation 30(1) of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 as amended, for information purpose only.

(Please scan the QR code to view the Prospectus)

ICL FINCORP LIMITED

ICL Fincorp Limited **("our Company" or "the Company" or "the Issuer" or "ICL")** was originally incorporated as 'Jawahar Finance Limited' at Chennai, a public limited company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated December 9, 1991, issued by RoC. The name of our Company was changed to 'Irinjalakuda Credits & Leasing Company Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated April 26, 2004, issued by the RoC. Later, the name of our Company was changed to 'ICL Fincorp Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated May 8, 2016, issued by the RoC. Our Company holds a certificate of registration dated June 09, 2016, bearing registration number B-07.00437 issued by the Reserve Bank of India **("RBI")** to carry on the activities of a non-banking financial company without accepting public deposits under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. For further details about our Company, see "General Information" on page 40 of the Prospectus and "History and Certain Other Corporate Matters" on page 113 of the Prospectus.

Registered Office: Plot No. C308, Door No. 66/40, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai– 600 083, Tamil Nadu, India; **Tel:** +91 44 4208 2381, 2958 0014; **Corporate Office:** ICL Fincorp Limited, Main Road, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur – 680121, Kerala, India; **Tel:** +91 480 2670400, 2828071, 2831305; **Corporate Identification Number:** U65191TN1991PLC021815; **PAN:** AAACJ1806C; **E-mail:** info@iclfincorp.com; **Website:** www.iclfincorp.com; **Company Secretary and Compliance Officer:** Visakh T.V.; **Email:** cs@iclfincorp.com; **Tel:** +91 480- 2670400, 2828071, 2831305; **Chief Financial Officer:** Madhavankutty Thekkedath; **Email:** cfo@iclfincorp.com; **Tel:** +91 480- 2670400, 2828071, 2831305;

PUBLIC ISSUE OF UP TO 10,00,000 SECURED, REDEEMABLE, NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES (NCDs) OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1,000 EACH

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

This notice is with reference to the public issue of up to 10,00,000 secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures of face value of ₹1,000 each, **("NCDs")** at par, for an amount up to ₹5,00,000 thousand **("Base Issue Size")** with an option to retain oversubscription of up to ₹5,00,000 thousand aggregating up to ₹10,00,000 thousand **(the "Issue")** by ICL Fincorp Limited **("Company")** in accordance with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, as amended **(the "SEBI NCS Regulations")**, the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, as amended from time to time, and rules made thereunder the SEBI Circular no. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-PoD/P/CIR/2025/0000000137 dated October15, 2025, as amended **("SEBI Master Circular")**. The Company has filed prospectus dated January 29, 2026 **("Prospectus")** with the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai **("RoC")**, Securities and Exchange Board of India **("SEBI")** and BSE Limited **("BSE") (the "Stock Exchange").** THE ISSUE IS NOT PROPOSED TO BE UNDERWRITTEN.

ADDENDUM TO THE PROSPECTUS DATED JANUARY 29, 2026 ("ADDENDUM")

With reference to the prospectus dated January 29, 2026 **("Prospectus")**, filed with the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai **("RoC")**, BSE Limited **("BSE"/ "Stock Exchange")** and Securities and Exchange Board of India **("SEBI")** in relation to the public issue of secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures for an amount up to ₹5,00,000 thousand with an option to retain oversubscription of up to ₹5,00,000 thousand, aggregating up to ₹10,00,000 thousand **("Issue")** by ICL Fincorp Limited (**"Company"** or **"Issuer"**). In this regard, please note the following:

The Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held at the corporate office of the Company on February 13, 2026 has considered and approved the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2025 **("Financial Results").** The Financial Results have been submitted to BSE Limited and are available on the website of BSE Limited at https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/7e02b610-999f-48d1-886a-de7a40f2635f.pdf Accordingly, the disclosures appearing in the section titled "Material Developments" on page 138 of the Prospectus stands updated in this regard. The financials included in the section titled 'Financial Statements' on page 137 of the Prospectus shall be read together with the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2025.

A copy of this Addendum is being filed with RoC in accordance with Section 26 and Section 31 of the Companies Act, 2013. The above information should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus. The information in this Addendum supplements the Prospectus and updates the information in the Prospectus and the Abridged Prospectus, as applicable. All references to the Prospectus shall also include this Addendum. All capitalized terms used in this Addendum shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning ascribed to them in the Prospectus. The Addendum is available on the websites of SEBI, Lead Managers, Stock Exchange and the Company that is www.sebi.gov.in; www.vivro.net; www.bseindia.com, and www.iclfincorp.com.

ISSUE PROGRAMME
ISSUE OPENS - FEBRUARY 05, 2026 (THURSDAY)
ISSUE CLOSES - FEBRUARY 18, 2026 (WEDNESDAY)

Potential Investors can view the detailed Addendum to Prospectus through the QR code and web link given below:
Web link: https://www.iclfincorp.com/fileupload/phTmNIPF86

(please scan this QR code to view the Addendum to the Prospectus)

Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus.
All the potential investors are advised to please provide attention to the above mentioned update and take an informed decision accordingly.

For ICL Fincorp Limited
SD/-
K.G. Anilkumar
(Chairman & Managing Director) DIN: 00766739

Place : Irinjalakuda
Date : 15/02/2026

A 38-year-old female tech professional in Davanagere, who was lured by a message promising substantial profits through stock market investments, has lost Rs 93 lakh, reports said. She was duped through a series of transactions made between December 8 and February 5. The incident came to light when she filed a complaint with the CEN police

Shivalinga, idols defaced at temple in Gadag dist

Miscreants strike on Saturday night, a day ahead of Shivaratri

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

MISCREANTS defaced a Shivalinga as well as the Nandi and Honnathemma Devi idols at a temple on the bank of Tungabhadra near Shingatalur village in Mundargi taluk of Gadag district during Saturday night – a day ahead of Shivaratri. The water bowl of the Ramalingeshwara Linga and the face of the Nandi idol were damaged in the attack.

The villagers had painted the temple on Saturday and kept all worship materials ready for Shivaratri rituals. When the priests came to perform worship early morning on Sunday, they saw the Shivalinga and Nandi idol damaged.

The miscreants appeared to have struck in the night, as villagers avoid going near the temple after dusk, fearing attack of wild animals. Local residents said they did not hear any sound from the temple as it was situated far from the village. They have decided to appeal to Gadag deputy commissioner to take action to arrest the culprits and ensure that no such incident repeats.

A villager said, "The miscreants either wanted to disturb communal harmony or they may belong to a gang which was searching for treasure near historical temples after the Lakkundi treasure find. We request the police to conduct a thorough investigation and arrest the wrongdoers as soon as possible."

Officials from the Mundargi police station visited the temple to collect evidence and have started an investigation.

Puja of the Shivalinga in progress on the premises of Ladle Mashak Dargah near Aland town on Sunday

COURT FACILITATES WORSHIP OF SHIVALINGA ON DARGAH LAND

Kalaburagi: Fourteen Hindu activists performed Abhisheka and Bilwarchane on the Raghava Chaitanya Shivalinga, situated on the premises of Ladle Mashak Dargah on the outskirts of Aland town, between 3pm on Sunday. The Kalaburagi Bench of the Karnataka High Court had permitted the activists to perform the Puja of the Shivling on the day of Shivaratri (Sunday) after the Ladle Mashak Dargah Committee attempted to prevent devotees from the Hindu community from performing worship on the dargah premises. Around 1,000 police personnel, including police officers, KSRP and DAR, were deployed near the dargah to maintain law and order. **ENS**

Explosion at chemical unit in Mandya kills 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mandya

TWO labourers were killed and four others seriously injured after a chemical tank exploded at a factory near Karekatte village near Basaralu in Mandya district on Sunday.

Police identified the deceased as Kallu Khan and Akash, both natives of Bihar. Both of them died on the spot. Qasim, Ravi, Mahantesh and Rajiv Kumar sustained severe injuries and have been admitted to Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS) and Hospital for treatment. The six labourers were hired through a labour contractor, Gullu Khan.

The incident occurred at around 9am at Kirti Chemical Factory when the labourers were dismantling machinery as part of the factory's relocation process that was underway for the past one month. They were carrying out welding and cutting work to remove a chemical tank when it suddenly exploded, killing two workers instantly and injuring the others.

Prakash, a local resident, said a loud explosion was heard between 8.30am and 8.45am. When the villagers rushed to the spot, they found two workers dead and others injured. The injured were shifted to the hospital in an ambulance, and police arrived at the scene and began an investigation.

A case has been registered at the Basaralu police station. They are collecting more information about the deceased and the injured.

Lokayukta traps KAS officer, village asst seeking ₹40k bribe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Shivamogga

A senior KAS officer serving as special land acquisition officer for the NH-206 project and a village assistant on Saturday fell into a trap set by the Lokayukta police to expose bribery. The duo was arrested on charges of demanding and accepting Rs 40,000 bribe to release pending vehicle rental dues.

Siddalinga Reddy, Rajesh

Keshavamurthy V, the complainant and a driver from Othigatta village in Shivamogga taluk, had leased his Maruti Ertiga car to the office of Special Land acquisition Officer Siddalinga Reddy about two years ago. The monthly rent was being paid by cheque.

According to the complaint, Reddy allegedly demanded Rs 40,000 to clear the rental payment for November 2025. On receiving the complaint, the Lokayukta police registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act at the Shivamogga Lokayukta police station and set the trap.

Volunteers remove trash from river Cauvery under the Kushalnagar-Koppa Bridge

'I Love Cauvery' drive collects heaps of garbage

MADIKERI: Heaps of trash were cleared from the Cauvery river by volunteers who took part in the 'I Love Cauvery' cleanliness drive organised at Kushalnagar on Saturday. The drive was organised by the Rotary Kushalnagar for the third year in collaboration with the Cauvery Swachata Andolana Committee, Bharat Mata PU College and Taluk Makkala Sahitya Parishad. The cleanliness drive began by offering tributes to the martyred soldiers in the Pulwama attack. Volunteers from across Kushalnagar gathered in large numbers and stated the drive from under the Kushalnagar-Koppa Bridge. **ENS**

GANGADHAR MEHER UNIVERSITY, AMRUTA VIHAR, SAMBALPUR-768004 (ODISHA)

No. 648 /GMU/2026 Date 14.02.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Gangadhar Meher University is seeking applications from Indian citizens having eligibility as per the UGC Notification, New Delhi, dated **4th July 2018**, for appointment to the posts of Assistant Professor/ Associate Professor/ Professor against regular sanctioned posts in the mentioned departments: (Anthropology, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Geography, Hindi, History, Library and Information Science, Mathematics, Odia, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Sociology, Statistics and Zoology) as per the Letter No. 5322/HE, Dated 31.01.2026 of Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar. The online application form and department-wise reservation details will be made available on the University website **www.gmuniversity.ac.in** from **28th February 2026** onwards. For details of the terms and conditions, guidelines for applying etc. please visit the University website.

Application open date: 28th February 2026

Application closing date: 13th April 2026

Sd/- Registrar

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)

Canara Bank, ARM Branch I

2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **05.03.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 17,80,79,663.56/-** as on 11.02.2026 with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. Sri K Lokanath Naidu,** 40/46, 2nd Floor, Rama Mandir Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **04.03.2026, 5.00 pm.** **(Rs. in lacs)**

Description of the immovable assets

12 Residential flats situated "GARDENIA RESIDENCY" 36 PID No.48-1-36, H Siddaiah Road, Next to Urvashi Theatre, Bengaluru -560027.

Coordinates of the property Latitude - 12.95675 Longitude - 77.58526

Sl No	Flat No.	Floor	UDS in Sq.ft	Super Built up area in Sq.ft	East	West	North	South	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	102	GF	281.84	1175	Urvashi Theatre	Flat No 103	Entrance & then Flat No 101	Flat No 104	**110.00**	**11.00**	1.00
2	105	GF	281.84	1175	Urvashi Theatre	Flat No 106	Entrance & then Flat No 104	Road	**75.00**	**7.50**	1.00
3	106	GF	337.50	1350	Flat No 105	Private Property	Entrance & then Flat No 104	Road	**86.00**	**8.60**	1.00
4	201	FF	402.00	1680	Urvashi Theatre	Private Property	Private Property	Flat No 202 & 203	**156.00**	**15.60**	1.00
5	203	FF	337.50	1350	Flat No 202	Private Property	Entrance & then Flat No 201	Flat No 204	**125.00**	**12.50**	1.00
6	301	SF	402.00	1680	Urvashi Theatre	Private Property	Private Property	Flat No 302 & 303	**156.00**	**15.60**	1.00
7	302	SF	281.84	1175	Urvashi Theatre	Flat No 303	Entrance & then Flat No 301	Flat No 304	**110.00**	**11.00**	1.00
8	303	SF	337.50	1350	Flat No 302	Private Property	Entrance & then Flat No 301	Flat No 304	**125.00**	**12.50**	1.00
9	402	TF	284.84	1175	Urvashi Theatre	Flat No 403	Entrance & then Flat No 401	Flat No 404	**110.00**	**11.00**	1.00
10	403	TF	337.50	1350	Flat No 402	Private Property	Entrance & then Flat No 401	Flat No 404	**125.00**	**12.50**	1.00
11	404	TF	378.00	1675	Urvashi Theatre	Private Property	Entrance & then Flat No 403	Flat Nos 405 & 406	**156.00**	**15.60**	1.00
12	405	TF	281.84	1175	Flat No 406	Flat No 406	Entrance & then Flat No 404	Road	**110.00**	**11.00**	1.00
			3941.20	**16310**					**1444.00**	**144.40**	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's **website (www.canarabank.com)** or **E-Wallet of M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 6381952519 and 9483544116** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 12.02.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Offier**
Place: Bangalore **Canara Bank**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail : ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-14/2025-26
34001/78/2526 No. 412 // Dated : 11.02.2026

1) The **Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate** bid in double cover system in **ON-LINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Building & Road works** as detailed in the table below..
2) Nature of work : Building & Road Works
3) No. of work : 03 Nos.
4) Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (online)
5) Class of Contractor : "B" Class/ "A" Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the Website : 18.02.2026 10.00 AM to 06.03.2026 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 07.03.2026 at 11.30 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
9) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- (Damodar Kaibartta)
Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-34001/34103/1/25-26/0025

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE) NELSON MANDELA

QuoteExpress

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD.,
PUDUKKOTTAI ROAD, KOTTAPATTU, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 023. E-mail: gmaavintrichy@gmail.com

Ref.No. 16512/P&I/BMC/2026-2028 **E-TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 13.02.2026**

Trichy District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd invite two part sealed tender from eligible contractors to engage hired vehicles for Bulk Milk Coolers Centers (BMC) Milk Collection ,Milk Procurement Team T- Board Taxi , Liquid Nitrogen and Mineral Salt Mixture Distribution vehicles in Trichy, Ariyalur, Perambalur districts in Tiruchirappalli Union for the period of (2026-2028) 2 years.

Name of the work	Contract period	Approximate Tender value (Rs. in Crores)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender Number
BMC Milk Collection Route Vehicles	2 years	4.50	Refer Tender Document Page No: 8	16512/P&I/BMC/2026-2028
T-Board Taxi	2 years	0.60		
Liquid Nitrogen & Mineral Salt Mixture Distribution Vehicles	2 years	0.41		

The Tender forms can be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in** on free of cost from the date of issue of tender notice from **20.02.2026** by **4.00** PM onwards. The Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **27.02.2026** at **11.00 AM** in Tiruchirappalli District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Meeting Hall Trichy. The EMD must be paid only through online **www.tntenders.gov.in** and duly filled tender forms should be submitted on or before **07.04.2026** by **4.00 PM** through online e-procurement portal **www.tntenders.gov.in** only. The opening of the tender technical bid form will be on **09.04.2026** by **11.00 AM.** The Commercial bid opening date will be intimated through **www.tntenders.gov.in** The General Manager has power to accept, reject or cancel the tender partially or fully. All other details are enclosed with the tender form.

DRO/ General Manager
DIPR/1106/TENDER/2026 **Tiruchirappalli District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd.,**

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of Secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Sanjay Kumar R Mr. Rameshachari S Mrs. Hemavathi M **(Prospect No 956937)**	**10-Feb-2026, Rs.1415967/-** (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Seven Rupees Only Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Municipal Site No 422/1,Property no 422/1 in Sy No 10, PID No 39-305-422/1,old Site No 422/1, ward no 128 , situated at Arundati Nagar Slum, Gangondannahalli Village, Chandra Layout,Bangalore 560040 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_Area Property Area: 576.00, 1008.00 Bounded By North:74 No Site South424 No Site East425 No Site WestRoad
Mr. Rajashekhar N Mr. Nanjaiah Mrs. Latha **(Prospect No 965109)**	**10-Feb-2026, Rs.1063162.44/-** (Rupees Ten Lakh Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two Rupees And Forty Four Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: khaneshummari no 58/18, situated at Toreddoddi Gramathana, bidadi Hobli, Ramnagaram Tq, Bangalore District 562109 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_Area Property Area: 1200.00, 1330.00 Bounded By North:Property Of Irayya SouthProperty Of Savandayya EastVacant Site Of Timmayya WestRoad
Mr. Santhosha G Mrs. Pavithra G **(Prospect No 970303)**	**10-Feb-2026, Rs.3398921.28/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One Rupees And Twenty Eight Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Site no 17, BBMP Khatha 17/17, situated at ward no 82, situated at Hoodi Basavannanagar, Krishnarajapur Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Karnataka 560048 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_Area Property Area: 754.00, 1320.00 Bounded By North:House No 16 SouthHouse No 18 EastHouse No 6 WestRoad
Mr. Suresh Babu Ks Slv Flowers Mrs. Nethravathi R V **(Prospect No 973457)**	**10-Feb-2026, Rs.2603274.46/-** (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four Rupees And Forty Six Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Site no.21, Katha no.132/1/21, Property no.132/1 situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobili, Bangalore East tq, Karnataka. 560087 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_Area Property Area: 1200 Bounded By North:20 Feet Wide Road SouthRemaining Portion Of Same Property Owned By Vendor East Remaining Portion Of Same Property Owned By Vendor & Property Owned By Subramani WestRemaining Portion Of Same Property Owned By Vendor
Mr. Chandrashekhar Karthik Mrs. Sulochana Slv Motors **(Prospect No IL10235934)**	**10-Feb-2026, Rs.917249/-** (Rupees Nine Lakh Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Forty Nine Rupees Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: House no 120, in sy no 109, situated at Singapur village, Yelhanka Hobli, Apara Tq, Bangalore district, Karnataka 560064 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_Area Property Area: 600.00, 1050.00 Bounded By North:Mariyappa SouthRoad EastKavamma WestMuttu
Miss. Sylvania Suganya Jayapaul Daniel Daniel Public School L D Enterprises Syvania Suganya Jayapaul Daniel Mr. Sylvester Daniel Mrs. Leema Daniel **(Prospect No IL10625524)**	**10-Feb-2026, Rs.681028.28/-** (Rupees Six Lakh Eighty One Thousand Twenty Eight Rupees And Twenty Eight Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Site No. 9, Assessment No. 6/2, Abbigere Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka 560090 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_Area Property Area: 1590.00, 1375.00 Bounded By North:Private Property SouthSite No. 9 East20 Feet Road WestPrivate Property
Mr. Vijendra Vishwas Rental Income V M S Springs Mrs. Yadavanahalli Mariyanna Jayalakshmamma **(Prospect No IL10715477)**	**11-Feb-2026, Rs.8227097.38/-** (Rupees Eighty Two Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Ninety Seven Rupees And Thirty Eight Paise Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Assessment No 84/10, Site No 66, Situated At Bbmp Ward No 73 Shrigandhakavalu Village, Yeshvantpura Hobli, Banglore North Tq, Banglore Karnataka , 560091 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Area_Admeasuring Property Area: 1500 Bounded By North:Site No 63 SouthRoad EastSite No 67 WestSite No 65

If the said Borrower fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office :**1st Floor, Manjunatha Sankeerna, BM Road, Ijoor, Ramanagara-562159./ or **Corporate Office :** IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place : Bangalore ; Date : 16.02.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

HDFC BANK We understand your world

HDFC BANK LTD, Ground Floor,Rashtrothana Bhavan, Muncipal No3/1,Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph: 68906203/629

Demand Notice under Sub Section 2 of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as "The Act".)

We, HDFC BANK LTD hereinafter called as "Bank" do here by issue notice as under. Please take notice that you the following had availed a loan details of which have been mentioned hereunder. Towards the said loan you have created security interest in favour of the Bank on the property described hereunder by way of mortgage by depositing title deed. After availing the said loan, contrary to the contractual obligations you have defaulted repayment of the loan amount together with interest and other charges. Hence, your loan account has been categorized as Non Performing Asset. Therefore, the Bank hereby recall the entire loan and call upon you to pay total amount outstanding in your loan account together with interest and all other charges thereon (details of which have been mentioned hereunder), within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this Notice. Further, You are hereby put on notice that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured asset detailed hereunder.

If you fail to repay the Bank the outstanding amount, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sec 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other or further legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any applicable provisions of law.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Co Borrowers	Description of property (Secured Assets)	A/c No & Amount	Date of NPA	Total Amount /Outstanding Amount
1	**1. Sudharshana Traders,** Represented by its sole proprietor Ravichandra M, No. 31, 5th Cross Road, Nandini Layout, Ganesha Block, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560096 **2. Mr. Ravichandra M.,** No. 31, 5th Cross Road, Nandini Layout, Ganesha Block, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560096 **3.Ms. Sudha R,** No. 4/31, 5th Cross Road, Ganesh 'A' Block, Saraswathipura, Near Panchamukhi Ganapathi,Bangalore, Karnataka - 560096 **4. Mr. Srinivas P,** No. 4/31, 5th Cross Road, Ganesh 'A' Block, Saraswathipura, Near Panchamukhi Ganapathi, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560096	All that piece and parcel property bearing BBMP Katha No. 31, assigned to site No. 4, 51st Block, Katha no. 1/224, situated at Jaraka Bande Kavalu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, comprising of a building bounded on: East by: Property bearing site no. 5, West by: Property bearing site no. 3, belonging to Mr. Driver Saheb, North by: property belongs to Mrs. Susheelamma; South by: Road Measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 30 Feet.	**Loan A/c No 50200066238802 Amount Rs.51,44,500/-**	**27.11.2025**	**Rs.48,39,794/-** as on **02.01.2026**

Place : Bangalore **Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.**
Date : 10.02.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDFC BANK Ltd.,**

PUNE MUNCIPAL CORPORATION
CHIEF ENGINEER ROAD DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2025-2026

Tender Sale Date: 16/02/2026 to Date :-12/03/2026 upto 2:30 PM

Bid Submission Start & End Date:- 16/02/2026 to Date :-12/03/2026 upto 2:30 PM Technical Envelope Opening Date: 13/03/2026, 3:00 PM

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name Of Work	Estimate Cost(Cr.) put to the Tender Excluding GST	NIT Mode	EMD Amount	Work Period	One Envelope/ Two Envelope	New Work/ Retender Work	Concern Contact Person
1)	PMC/ ROAD/ 2025/419	Appointment of Consultant for the work of Pre and Post tender activity and on site supervision in pr.no.35 Teen Hatti Chowk to Panchavati to Chavannagar Road Asphalting, concreting, pavement development along storm water line, surveying of DP road, total survey and on site demarcation.	7.5CR	B-2	500/-	18 MONTH	Two Envelope (B- 2)	New Work	Mr. Ramdas Pawar 7767022552

A) All details of Terms & Conditions of above works are incorporated in tender document which is available on website www. Mahatenders. gov in sales & acceptance is available by online system only
B) If sales or submission not been available on last day also & it is not been submitted will be sole responsible of tender.
C) Online tender process information will be available at Road Department, Pune Muncipal Corporation.
D) As per office order No. 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD deposite amount will be acceptable through Online Banking Only.
Tender rate for above Pre & Post tender activity works & appointment of consultant for (PMC) Project Management Consultancy to be filled on Company letter head as per financial bid in (Envelope 2) to be uploaded will be considered only.

XXX
SUPERITENDENT Engineer (Road)
Pune Muncipal Corporation

ADVT No : 3/1708
Date : 13/02/2026

Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik announced on Sunday that the final electoral rolls for the Special Intensive Revision in Tamil Nadu will be published on February 23 instead of February 17

QUESTIONING TRADITION

Women's entry into Sabari: SC hearing today

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a batch of review and writ petitions in connection with its 2018 verdict permitting the entry of women of all ages into the Lord Ayyappa temple.

According to the causelist of the top court, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi, is scheduled the review and writ petitions for hearing on Monday, February 16.

The top court's causelist revealed that around 60 review and writ petitions had challenged the Sabarimala judgment of 2018. The 2018 verdict was delivered by a 4:1 majority, lifting the ban on women aged 10–50 entering the Sabarimala temple, ruling the practice unconstitutional, discriminatory, and violating fundamental rights. The top Court struck down Rule 3(b) of the 1965 Kerala rules, stating

that the exclusion based on physiological factors (menstruation) could not constitute an essential religious practice. The only judge who dissented was Justice Indu Malhotra.

Following this, a batch of review had been filed and the 2019 judgment of the apex court had not stayed the 2018 verdict.

While review petitions led to the case being referred to a larger 7-judge bench in 2019, the 2018 judgment allowing women's entry remains in effect. The 2019 verdict had framed questions for the seven-judge Bench to answer, including whether such practices considered essential should be given Constitutional practice. It had also clubbed similar petitions concerning essentiality of religious practices, including the right of Muslim women to enter mosques, Parsi women who have married out of their faith to enter their religious place of worship, and certain others.

After Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi's retirement, his successor, Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, had constituted a nine-judge Bench in January 2020 to hear the case.

(With inputs from Agencies)

'Safari ban driving tourists to Kerala, TN'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CURBING eco-tourism and the safari ban in Karnataka has opened up revenue opportunities for neighbouring states and led to a tussle in Karnataka. Locals are demanding reopening of the safari, as the decision is affecting their livelihood. Members of Karnataka Eco-Tourism Resorts Association (KETRA) said that the state is affected financially. "Since we are unable to offer safari activity in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have benefited. Safari in Ranthambore, Corbett and other places is also seeing a spike," KETRA members said.

Following an increase in human deaths due to tiger and leopard attacks, Karnataka issued orders to close down safaris in two prime tiger reserves, Bandipur and Nagarahole. In December, the government said safaris would be reopened in a phased manner. Directions were also issued to prepare a report on carrying capacity.

There are around 35 resorts registered under KETRA. "Member resorts and associated tourism businesses in the Bandipur-Nagarahole landscape are losing around Rs 3 crore per day due to cancellations and reduced bookings. Occupancy at several properties dropped by 50-80% this year," said Thomas Emmanuel Ramapuram, KETRA member and resort owner in Kabini. The KETRA members said around 8,000 people are directly and indirectly dependent on eco-tourism. Arjun Kapoor, founding member of KETRA and resort owner, said the rise in number of safari vehicles has not led to conflict. "Rise in tiger numbers in Karnataka is a result of conservation success. Eco-tourism goes hand-in-hand with conservation, and safaris should not be blamed for this," he said.

KETRA said, "It will have a ripple effect in subsequent years, particularly on international tourists. Travel agents have stopped bookings for Karnataka for next year. Conservation efforts should be uniform across southern states."

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Bishwajit Mishra said it is first time ever that safaris have been closed completely. The government is yet to take final decision.

DIVINE DEVOTION

People take part in the Seeveli rituals at Sreekanteshwara temple during Maha Shivaratri celebrations, in Kozhikode, Kerala, on Sunday | PTI

Ahead of summer, 35 TN dists see big dip in groundwater

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN
@ Chennai

THIRTY-five of the 38 districts in Tamil Nadu have recorded a sharp decline in groundwater level, with the western districts of Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur witnessing almost a three-metre drop compared to last year.

The last time the state witnessed such a widespread decline in groundwater was in 2017, one of its worst drought years, though the overall groundwater level that year was much lower than it is now. In 2017, all districts, except the Nilgiris which recorded a marginal rise of 0.18 metres, reported a fall.

Data accessed by TNIE from the Water Resources Department reveal that groundwater level has marginally increased in only three districts in January 2026 compared to January 2025. While Vellore recorded an increase of 0.19 metres, Tenkasi and Tirunelveli recorded a rise of 0.45 metres and 1.25 metres, respectively.

There seems to be a significant stress on water resources in western TN, with water available at a depth of 10.37 metres in Coimbatore, 8.28 metres in Tiruppur, 6.42 metres in Namakkal, and 6.33 metres in Erode.

Officials warned that if the declining trend continues, it could pose serious challenge in meeting drinking water needs, particularly in rural areas, during peak summer months.

A senior official told *TNIE* that both groundwater and surface water levels mainly depend on rainfall. "Water levels improve only when we receive adequate rain. Though the state received rainfall during the monsoon, it was not evenly distributed. This has affected groundwater recharge. Dry weather conditions may also lead to faster evaporation. It is difficult to predict how severe the summer will be," the official said.

The official added that there will be no water release from major dams, including Mettur, for irrigation in the next three months from March to May. "The available storage in the dams will be used only for drinking water purposes. This will help us manage the summer demand," the official said.

THE JANATHA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
H.O: #156, 8th Main, 17th Cross, Malleshwaram West, Bengaluru - 560055, Ph: 080- 23341972/ 2344 2648
Email: gm@jcbank.in / recovery@jcbank.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **The Janatha Co-Operative Bank Limited, Bangalore** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) & 13(12) with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices dated calling upon the following Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest / cost etc,. **within 60 days** from the date of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower under.

1. Name of the Borrower/Co-Obligant: Mr.Chandrashekar R S/o Mr.Rajagopala Reddy K Y, residing at No.348//1, "Hari Nivas" 1st 'A' Main, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore–560095.

Demand notice dated : 18.11.2025 Possession Notice Date : 10.02.2026

Total amount mentioned in the notice: **Rs.1,33,03,938/- (Rupees One Crore thirty-three lakh three thousand nine hundred thirty eight only)** as on **31.10.2025** and further interest thereon.

Description of the Property: Property No.BBMP/BDA No.28, Old No..348/1, Koramangala Village, adjacent to Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore situated in BBMP Ward No.151 (Koramangala) (PID No.67-10-28) and Measuring East to West 37.7 feet and North to South 67 feet and bounded on East by : Property of Ramaiah Reddy, West by : Property of Ramakrishna Reddy, North by : Road South by : Defendant's Property.

The above borrowers / Mortgagers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers and the public in general that the under signed has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with the rule 8 of the said Rules on above dates. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **The Janatha Co- Operative Bank Limited, Malleswaram West, Bangalore** for the amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued thereon cost.

Date : 10.02.2026
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
The Janatha Co-op., Bank Ltd.,

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
T.2364 & T.2365	CE / Transmission	Procurement of 33 KV indoor VCB Panels & 11 KV Outdoor Vacuum Circuit Breaker

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1068/Tender/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **M/s PVR Builders and Developers,** Office @ No.22/23, 1st Main, 1st 'A' Cross, Nanjappa Reddy Colony, B.K.Nagar, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore-22, Rep.by its partners:1.Sri.Jagadish.V. S/o Sri. Venkatesh Reddy and 2.Sri.Sunil.V. S/o Sri.Venkatesh Reddy, Aged about 32 years, together have entered in to an Agreement of Sale Dated 19/12/2025, in respect of the Schedule property with its Owners Sri.K.S.Muniraju, S/o Late.Subbanna, Aged about 54 years, resident of Kereguddadahalli/Keregulladalli, Chikkabanavara Post, Bangalore-90, claim to be the sole and absolute owner of the property detailed hereunder Schedule Property and further Sri.K.S.Muniraju, S/o Late. Subbanna, covenant that the schedule property is not subjected to any encumbrances, charges, demands, claims, litigations, infringes, attachments, lispendense, court attachments, injunctions, prohibitor orders, decrees, executions, warrants, minor claims, shreedhan claims, partition claims, etc., and further covenant that, the property is not subjected with any Bank or Financial Institution/s with an intention to create a charge over the same. Hence this general public notice calling as; If any person/s/ authority/'s, is/are having any claim, interest, possession of any documents pertaining to the Schedule Property, he/they shall be/are requested approach the undersigned **Within FIFTEEN days** from the date of publication of this Notice. Failing which my Clients shall proceed with the Sale Transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Eight Residential Site Properties formed out of vast extent Property bearing Old Sy.No.142/1, New Sy.No.142/5, (as per 11E Sketch No.20010723984924001), situated at **Chikkarbanavara Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring 0-10 Guntas** (out of 0-20 Guntas), vide M.R.No.H9/2023-24, Dated 18/03/2024, and are bounded on;

East by : Sy.No.142/4 Papaiah Property
West by : Property belongs to Nagaraj.N.(A-Schedule Holder)
North by : Kempapura Village Boundary and Road
South by : Sy.No.142/2 Ananthapadmanabha's Property.

C.Raju. Advocate
A.R. Associates,
#9, 9th Cross, 8th Main, Brundavan Nagar,Mathikere, Bangalore-54.
Mbl.No.98451 45445 / 98456 43327 E-Mail:vakeelcraju@gamil.com
Date: 16.02.2026 Place: Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: EEE/AEE-2/2025-26/2590-90 **Date: 06.02.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Establishing 2 x 20 MVA,110/11kV Sub-Station at Guttibasavanna (Alhal) in Shorapura Taluk, Yadgir Dist, and Construction of proposed 110 kV LILO line from Existing 110KV Kembhavi - Aski line on D/C towers to proposed 110/11kV S/S at Guttibasavanna for a distance of 0.7km is completed. The line passes through the survey numbers 19/5, 17/4, 35/1, 36/1, 23, 19/2 of the Guttibasavanna (Alhal) village.

The line will be energized on or after **23.02.2026.** Hence public are hereby requested to not to climb towers, tying of animals,throwing of green sticks/stones on the 110KV lines are prohibited. As these activities are highly dangerous to the lives of both human beings and animals. For such activities KPTCL is not responsible.

Sd/-Executive Engineer(Ele), Projects Division, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/S/146/2025-26/14 **Dated: 13.02.2026**

On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic tender for the following work through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** from experienced/ reputed contractors in the field.

Tender No	Due Date & Time	Distance Slab	Quantity	Estimated Tender Value	EMD Amount
RWFSTPT_RT_CWS_ RAIPUR	09.03.2026 at 14.15 Hrs	1355Kms	150MT	Rs.6,95,115/-	Rs.13,900/-
RWFSTPT_RT_CA_RAIPUR	16.03.2026 at 14.15 Hrs	1335Kms	300MT	Rs.13,53,645/-	Rs.27,100/-
RWFSTPT_ERC3rd Slab_ 6600MT	18.03.2026 at 14.15 Hrs	Above1000 Kms with a mean distance of 2500Kms.	6600MT	Rs.4,47,15,000/-	Rs.3,73,600/-
RWFSTPT_CA_ 3rd Slab_ 5900MT	23.03.2026 at 14.15 Hrs	Above1000 Kms with a mean distance of 2500Kms.	5900MT	Rs.3,76,12,500/-	Rs.3,38,100/-
RWFSTPT_RT_CWS_ MATUNGA	23.03.2026 at 14.15 Hrs	994Kms	100MT	Rs.4,17,480/-	Rs.8,400/-

For Scope of Work and Special Note : Please refer RWF Website
Contract Period Minimum 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP-Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders for **"Providing Electrical Infrastructure to the Regularized IP sets by extending 11 KV line, erection of 25 KVA Star 1 (4 Star) rated Distribution Transformers and Extension of LT line** on Partial Turnkey basis (25 KVA Distribution Transformer will be supplied by BESCOM) under percentage quoting basis" for the following tender enquiry nos.

Sl. No.	Tender Nos	Name of the Sub-Division / Section	Category	Amount put to tender
1	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT954	Tumkur CSD-1	CAT-I	32,23,358.00
2	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT955	Tumkur C SD-2	CAT-IIA	48,29,215.00
3	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT956	Huliyurdurga	OTHERS	66,76,743.00
4	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT957	Kunigal	OTHERS	1,75,15,228.00
5	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT959	Davanagere Rural S/D Unit 1	OTHERS	19,71,617.00
6	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT961	Davanagere Rural S/D Unit 2	OTHERS	73,09,914.00
7	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT963	Davanagere Rural S/D Elebethur section	OTHERS	96,88,795.00
8	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT964	Davanagere Rural S/D Kukkawada section	OTHERS	93,50,566.00
9	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT965	Jagalur S/D Jagaluru Unit 1	OTHERS	99,62,800.00
10	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT966	Jagalur S/D Jagaluru Unit 2	SC	98,26,630.00
11	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT967	Jagalur S/D Bilichodu section	OTHERS	96,18,836.00
12	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT968	Jagalur S/D Pallagatte	CAT-IIA	92,15,466.00
13	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT969	D avanagere div, Sokke section	SC	79,85,656.00
14	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT970	Santhebannur S/D Santhebenur Section	OTHERS	1,99,59,388.00
15	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT971	Santhebannur S/D, Basavaoatna Section	OTHERS	99,22,851.00
16	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT972	Santhebannur S/D, Tvavanagi Section	OTHERS	38,45,697.00
17	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT973	Santhebannur S/D, Devarahalli Section	CAT-IIA	99,30,770.00
18	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT974	Santhebannur S/D, Kerebilachi Section	OTHERS	47,59,181.00
19	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT975	O & M-3 section, Chitradurga Urban sub division	OTHERS	1,82,87,308.00
20	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT976	O & M-4 section, Chitradurga Urban sub	OTHERS	1,96,36,372.00
21	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT977	O & M-2 section, Haraoanahalli sub division	OTHERS	1,26,15,165.00
22	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT978	Bennehalli section, Harapanahalli sub division	OTHERS	1,59,31,370.00
23	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT979	Arasikere section, Harapanahalli sub division	OTHERS	1,76,60,854.00
24	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT980	BG Kere section, Molakalmuru sub divislon	SC	90,14,926.00
25	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT981	Molakalmuru section, Molakalmuru sub divislon	OTHERS	1,26,44,481.00
26	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT982	Nagasamudra section, Molakalmuru sub divislon	SC	85,90,767.00

Availability of Bid documents: 16.02.2026 @ 17:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for submission of Queries:** 24.02.2026 before 17:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting:** 26.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting Venue:** Office of the Chief Engineer (Ele), O&M Zone, BESCOM, Turuvanur Road, Opp. RTO Office, Chitradurga. **Last date for bid submission:** 05.03.2026 @ 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids:** 07.03.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the KPP portal from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

E-procurement Help Desk No: 9240214000 and 9240214001, E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on KPP portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele.),
O&M Zone, Chitradurga, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Sanju Enterprrises, Proprietor Mr. Annappa, 2) Mr. Annappa, S/o. Gurumurthy, Also at: M/s. Sanju Enterprises, 3) Mr. Nagaraja, S/o. Gurumurthy, 4) Mrs. Shylaja, W/o. Mr. Annappa	Loan Account No. 30198640002670 Loan Amount: Rs.70,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Assessment No.17/2, VP Khatha No.2231, Old Khatha No.2218, situated at Tavarekere Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 150 feet' and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property of Richard Fernandis, **West by:** Property of Munichannappa, **North by:** Remaining portion of same property, **South by:** 20 Feet Road.	**Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 10.02.2026**	**Rs.80,85,252.88** (Rupees Eighty Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two and Eighty Eight Paisa Only) **due as on 03-02-2026**
2	1) Mrs. Mahalakshmi S, 2) Mr. Somashekar B S	Loan Account No. 47519430000851 47519430002297 Loan Amount: Rs.15,21,690/- Rs.6,84,643/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy.No.4, situated at Mallattahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobali, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Presently Comes under the limits of BBMP and **Bounded by the: East by:** Property belongs to Sri S.C.Kumar, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri Shivanna, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Venkateshppa. Measuring East to West: 14 feet and North to South: 40 feet in all Measuring 560 Sq.mtr.	**Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 12.02.2026**	**Rs.22,10,958.91** (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Eight and Ninety One Paisa Only) **due as on 09-02-2026**
3	1) Mr. Rajesh T C, S/o. Chikkanagappa, 2) Mrs. Veena V, W/o. Mr. Rajesha T C	Loan Account No. 46659630000506 46659410000459 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/- Rs.3,68,400/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Katha Assessment No.30/52/1/2, E-Katha No.150300201100720021, situated at s Tellohalli Village, comes within the purview of Channahalli Village Panchayath, Devanahalli Taluk, measuring East-West 4.572 mtrs, North South 7.62 mtrs, totally measuring 34,84 Sq.mtrs and **Bounded on: East by:** House of Munkrishnappa, **West by:** House of Chikkanagappa, **North by:** House of Chikkanagappa, **South by:** House of Chikkanagappa.	**Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 10-02-2026**	**Rs.6,77,134.81** (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four and Eighty One Paisa Only) **due as on 03-02-2026**
4	1) Mr. Surya S S, 2) Mrs. Sumithra C C, 3) Mr. Chandrakanthamma	Loan Account No. 47040430001538 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property No. 152900202800900339 Khaneshwari No.241/115, measuring East to West 7.0 meter and North to South 11.60 meters, total measuring 81..20 sq.meters situated at Sigekote Village, Shivanahalli Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Prema, W/o. Honnaraju, **West by:** House belongs to Eraiah, **North by:** Raja Bidhi, **South by:** Raja Bidh.	**Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 12.02.2026**	**Rs.5,05,045.10** (Rupees Five Lakh Five Thousand Forty Five and Ten Paisa Only) **due as on 09-02-2026**
5	1) Mr. Murthynayak R, 2) Mrs. Anusha J	Loan Account No. 45479420002862 Loan Amount: Rs.8,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable of Property bearing No.871/827, Grama Panchayath Unique Code No. 152200507722000894, situated at Hosakote Village, Hosakote Grama Panchayath, Nanjanagudu Taluk and **Bounded on: Measurement:** East to West 9.144 Meters, North to South 12.192 Meters. **East:** House belongs to Chinnanayaka, **West:** House belongs to Madivalashetty Shivanna, **North:** Road, **South:** House belongs to Mahadevamma.	**Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 12.02.2026**	**Rs.7,23,981.72** (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty One and Seventy Two Paisa Only) **due as on 09-02-2026**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 16.02.2026, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE *Every Friday with* THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

EDITORIAL

The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do | B F Skinner

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

AI SUMMIT: INDIA'S CHANCE TO PUSH CLEAN INNOVATION

THE AI Impact Summit, organised in India from February 16-20, is an ambitious government initiative that can help establish India as a leader in the global AI landscape. The first global AI summit hosted in the Global South, with its scale and prestige, allows India to advance the argument that the country is ready to play a leading role in an AI-driven world. The presence of figures such as Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, and global political leaders underscores this aspiration. By seeking to democratise access to AI, the summit positions India and its companies at the heart of future opportunities. With 2.5 lakh registrations so far, the AI Summit offers India a chance to shape the global conversation on responsible artificial intelligence. With Stanford University ranking India third in AI competitiveness, the country is no longer a bystander but a serious contender. However, leadership will not come from scale alone, but from demonstrating that India's technological ambition matches public purpose.

India's work in building large digital systems for public use provides a strong, trustworthy foundation. Systems such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface, and India Stack have already shown how well-designed platforms can simplify everyday life for a billion-plus people. They expanded financial inclusion, improved service delivery, and reduced leakages. At the summit, India can argue that AI should be the next layer in this system, helping to deliver farming advice, health checks, transport, and public services to people on a large scale. If AI systems can operate reliably across India's linguistic, economic, and geographic diversity, they can work anywhere.

To make this vision practical, India must commit to serious investment in computing infrastructure, secure data frameworks, and open innovation ecosystems that allow start-ups and small enterprises to participate. The labour market transition must also be addressed honestly. Large-scale skilling programmes, partnerships between industry and universities, and continuous reskilling for workers in factories, farms, and small towns are essential if AI-led growth is to remain inclusive. Finally, India can lead the safety debate by rejecting the false idea that it must choose between moving fast and innovating, or putting strong safeguards in place. Clear research protocols, AI regulation and privacy protection under digital data laws, and open audits can prove that responsibility supports, rather than slows, innovation.

DMK SEEKS TO TURN CASH AID INTO ELECTION EDGE

IN Tamil Nadu, long identified with expansive social welfare, the DMK government has announced a ₹6,550-crore outlay benefiting 1.31 crore women under its flagship Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam. The latest tranche includes an advance of ₹3,000—covering the ₹1,000 monthly honorarium for February, March and April—along with a special ₹2,000 summer assistance component, totalling ₹5,000 credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts. With Assembly elections expected in the coming months, the timing has inevitably attracted political scrutiny. The government has said the advance release was intended to ensure uninterrupted support and shield beneficiaries from any administrative delays.

The AIADMK-led alliance has promised to raise the monthly assistance to ₹2,000 if elected, while the BJP has previously expressed reservations about what it terms "*revdi* culture". Yet in Tamil Nadu's political tradition, welfare programmes have consistently been framed by major parties as instruments of social justice rather than electoral inducements. The competitive pledges underscore the centrality of targeted welfare in the state's governance model. Chief Minister M K Stalin has also indicated that the monthly honorarium would be enhanced to ₹2,000 if his party returns to office.

The larger question is not whether welfare should continue, but how it should be structured and sustained. Tamil Nadu reported one of the fastest real GSDP growth rates in the country at 11.2 per cent, alongside a robust rise in its own tax revenues. Over the decades, successive governments have built a layered welfare framework—from the Chief Minister's breakfast scheme for schoolchildren and free bus travel for women to financial support for higher education among students from government and aided schools. These measures have sought to expand access, strengthen human capital and reduce vulnerability.

Fiscal prudence remains an essential consideration. However, Tamil Nadu's record suggests that sustained social investment can coexist with economic growth when managed carefully. Rather than reducing the debate to labels such as "freebies", the focus should remain on design, delivery and long-term outcomes. Constructive engagement between the Union and the states would better advance the shared goal of inclusive development.

QUICK TAKE

CHOOSING EQUALITY

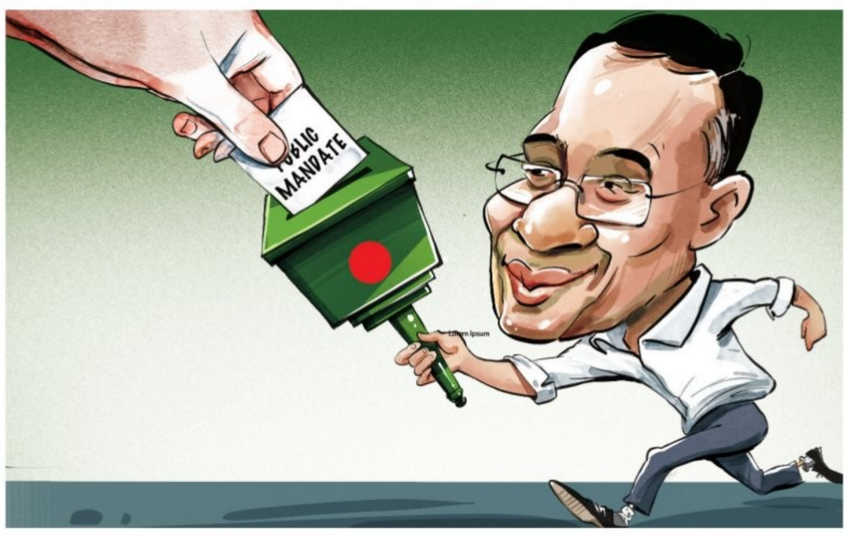
A small village in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, Soundala, recently made news by declaring itself caste-free. The Gram Sabha resolved that humanity will come before caste. This is an ambitious step in a region that has a recorded history of caste-based violence. Now the spotlight is on the residents, how they practise what they promised, to transform daily behaviour, give up caste-based customs, and teach their children that all people are equal. Though caste cannot be legally erased in India, people can choose not to practise it by promoting inter-caste friendships and marriages, supporting education, and strongly opposing discrimination. If Soundala's effort remains peaceful and voluntary, it can inspire change far beyond the village.

Voters have delivered change and a strong mandate, yet exclusion of key rivals, polarised politics and external pressures mean balance remains the central question in Bangladesh's unfolding transition

NEW DAWN IN BANGLADESH, STABILITY KEY

PINAK RANJAN CHAKRAVARTY

Former High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs



MANDAR PARDIKAR

THE people of Bangladesh have voted decisively to usher in a transformed political era. Though not inclusive, with the Awami League banned from participation, the election was largely peaceful, marred by sporadic attempts at booth capturing. Predictably, voters have expressed their resounding faith in the mainstream Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by Tarique Rahman, son of deceased former prime minister Khaleda Zia and the future PM. The BNP bagged 212 seats out of 300 in Parliament, notching up a two-thirds majority. Three elected MPs of the BNP are those who faced death sentences for terror attacks and arms smuggling to Indian insurgent groups but were acquitted by the Muhammad Yunus regime by managing the judiciary.

The Jamaat-e-Islami-led Islamist coalition won 69 seats, its best-ever result, finishing second. The National Citizen Party (NCP), formed by the leaders of the student agitation, secured just six. Predictably, the Jamaat alleged election commission malpractice. Turnout was reportedly below 50 percent, despite official claims of 60 percent or more, amid boycott calls from Hasina that kept many voters away.

The election cannot be called truly free, fair or inclusive because of the ban on the largest political party, the Awami League, which was arbitrarily imposed by the interim government's diktat. The Awami League and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina can be faulted on many counts, but to exclude them from the election does not bode well for the future. The election, however, fulfils Yunus's dream of the 'minus two' formula, first propounded during the army-backed caretaker government in 2007, which sought to exclude both Hasina and Khaleda Zia, the so-called squabbling Begums, from politics. With Hasina living in exile in India and Khaleda passing away last month, that goal has been achieved.

The July Charter referendum, held alongside the election, secured over 70 percent 'Yes' votes despite a reportedly low turnout of nearly 12 percent and lacking constitutional status. Drafted by six commissions under the Yunus regime, it proposes sweeping governance reforms, including constitutional amendments, judicial and electoral changes, a bicameral parliament, term limits for the prime minister and expanded rights. The new Parliament must decide how to proceed. The BNP has pledged implementation, and its ability to meet the aspirations of the youth and deliver acceptable outcomes will determine its success in government.

The electoral verdict has firmly rejected the Islamist coalition led by Jamaat-e-Islami, including its partner, the NCP. It signals public distrust of Islamist parties and student agitation leaders to deliver good governance. Bangladeshis do not want an Islamic state under Sharia law. The JeI's role in the 1971 genocide and targeting of minority Hindus remains deeply etched in public memory. Many view it as a proxy of Pakistan and thus untrustworthy. Women voters reject its regressive stance; its Ameer has said the party can never have a woman leader and likened women's public role to prostitution. The JeI fielded no female candidates. Hindu voters likely backed the BNP as the less oppressive option.

The JeI's charter prioritises only Islam's commandments. The Supreme Court banned it as a political party during Hasina's tenure for failing to accept Bangladesh's Constitution as the source of all laws. This fuelled JeI's targeting of her. Its youth wing, the Shibir, spearheaded the attack on her residence after she fled to India.

The voters of Bangladesh have opted for stability and restoration of constitutional government. The people want to see the back of the unconstitutional interim government, which was imposed on the hapless country in August 2024, following the regime change operation that successfully ousted Hasina. The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Peace Laureate, was a nominee of the US whose deep state conceived and implemented the regime change operation, using American NGOs which front for the CIA and its rentier State Pakistan, working in tandem with the JeI.

Hasina has called the national election a "carefully planned farce", whereas Yunus termed it a "birthday for new Bangladesh". Soon after the voting concluded, Hasina's Awami League posted a message on behalf of its leader expressing her gratitude to all the citizens for rejecting the 'farcical election of the murderous-Fascist Yunus'.

The interim government's rule saw mismanagement, lawlessness, economic decline and disproportionate violence against Hindus. Jamaat-e-Islami was the *de facto* ruler, with US-backed Yunus as its willing puppet. Bangladesh may benefit from the interim government's end, though whether Yunus will walk away remains an issue. There are rumours of 'deals' in which Tarique was acquitted of all corruption and murder cases, a *quid pro quo* for making Yunus the president. The American hand in this 'deal' cannot be ruled out.

For India, there is an opportunity to work toward a reset in bilateral ties, which the Yunus-JeI regime deliberately downgraded. The Yunus-JeI coalition, backed by Pakistan, deliberately fanned anti-India sentiments, exploiting the Hasina factor. Reflecting the poor state of bilateral relations, India reduced its financial assistance to Bangladesh in its latest budget. The progressive Islamisation of Bangladesh and its spillover effect into India's neighbouring states is a cause for worry that demographic changes are being brought about by the illegal migration of Bangladeshi Muslims. Notably, the JeI won in several constituencies bordering West Bengal. Bangladesh will remain a contested arena for big powers.

The BNP has announced that its government will have good relations with all countries. There is an anti-India lobby within the BNP that will seek to harm India's security interests. Its MPs securing ministerial positions would not be a positive signal for bilateral ties. Bangladesh, regardless of the government in Dhaka, will remain a vital neighbour, given the geographical reality, India's strategic interests and the Act East Policy. It would be unrealistic to expect India-Bangladesh relations to attain the level of close engagement they achieved during Hasina's tenure. But substantial engagement can be revived if the BNP government sticks to its electoral pronouncements.

(Views are personal)

UJJAIN'S GEMS OF GENIUS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

I find myself still mentally in thrall to the romance of Ujjain and encouraged by your responses to last week's column, I wonder if you would like to revisit more stories from its unique legacy in Indian culture.

The best-known story is from when Sri Krishna was sent to study there with his brother Balarama at Rishi Sandipani's gurukul. Krishna helped all his classmates and grew especially protective of a meek, timid boy called Sudama.

One day, when Krishna and Sudama were sent to collect firewood from the forest, it suddenly began to rain. "Krishna! I'm afraid," quavered Sudama, shrinking from the thunderous downpour. "I'll look after you, be brave," said Krishna. "Let's hide under this big tree. Its leaves will keep us dry. Quick, over here." After a while, Krishna said, "Sudama, I'm hungry, aren't you? Where's that packet of poha that I saw Guru Ma give you as we were leaving?" "Oh, Krishna, I'm so sorry. I ate it all up myself when you went ahead of me; I was that hungry," confessed Sudama. "Never mind," chuckled Krishna. "But see that you give me my share of poha another time, Sudama." "I will," promised Sudama fervently. Krishna was so divinely adept that he rapidly learnt not only the warrior's skill of archery and the fourteen sciences but also 'the sixty-four arts' from Guru Sandipani.

When his education was complete, Krishna was lovingly blessed by his guru and his guru's wife and took leave, though not without rescuing the guru's long-kidnapped son as guru dakshina, by which Krishna also obtained his war-conch, Panchajanya.

Sudama kept his promise. When he finally paid a visit to Krishna at his royal capital of Dwaraka, he took along a small bundle of poha, that too, borrowed by his wife from a neighbour. But seeing the splendour of Dwaraka, Sudama was ashamed of his humble present. Krishna, however, noticed that Sudama was trying to hide something and took the poha from him. By eating just two handfuls of Sudama's poor but sincere offering, he bestowed great wealth on Sudama and redeemed him from crushing poverty. A living cultural celebration of this story is that poha is modern Ujjain's favourite snack, as is its spicy version in nearby Indore, Maharani Ahilyabai's city.

King Vikramaditya's court at Ujjain reportedly housed a collection of eminent scholars called the Navaratna or Nine Gems, including the great physician and healer Dhanvantari, a master of Ayurveda and the author of an important medical treatise.

Varahamihira was a well-known astronomer and astrologer whose fame spread to faraway kingdoms, as did the news of his specially built observatory at Ujjain.

Vetal Bhat, author of the widely known *Vetal Pachheesi* or Twenty-Five Tales of The Ghoul, wrote elegant, witty stories that both entertained and served as lessons in character-building, ethics and diplomacy for kings and commoners alike.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Witty stories of ghouls, formidable linguistic works, impactful folklore and exquisite compositions by blessed playwrights—all have their unique connections to Ujjain. What perhaps stands out the most is the tale of a promise kept by Lord Krishna's dearest of peers

Vararuchi, the great linguist, wrote a formidable work on Prakrit grammar. He is also said to have authored the collection of stories called *Singhasan Batteesi* or Thirty-Two Tales of The Throne.

Today, they are part of Indian folklore. In their time, they upheld a very high standard of kingship, personified by Vikramaditya, as illustrated in the *Singhasan Batteesi*. Its hero, Raja Bhoj, is informed of a strange occurrence. A little village boy turns exceedingly wise and just whenever he sits on a particular mound of earth. So perfect are his verdicts that many people seek him out to settle their disputes. The mound is duly excavated, and the stepped throne of Vikramaditya is revealed, supported by thirty-two lovely, lifelike statuettes.

However, when Raja Bhoj prepares to ascend the throne, he is halted by a statuette speaking in a human voice: "Stop, O king! It is true that you are brave, virtuous and charitable. But this throne belonged to none other than King Vikramaditya. Can you really compare yourself to him? I, Ratnamanjari, challenge you to answer honestly if you are worthy, after you hear my story about Vikramaditya's virtue." Raja Bhoj graciously agrees, and after hearing the statuette's story about Vikramaditya's good qualities, he honestly replies that he cannot match the legendary king. Raja Bhoj is halted at every step by one statuette after another with a story about Vikramaditya. Raja Bhoj humbly admits each time that he is made of much commoner clay and returns Vikramaditya's judgement seat to the ground.

Among the Navaratna, playwright Kalidasa's legend is the stuff of high literary romance. The story goes that he, an uneducated rustic, was married through palace intrigue to the learned princess Vidyottama. When she discovered his illiteracy, she sent him away to beg the Devi for redemption. Through the grace of Goddess Kali, he acquired learning. His first, grateful composition was the exquisite paean '*Shyamala Dandakam*', which many still hear and recite. When he went home, Vidyottama asked him in Sanskrit: "*Asti kaschid vaak-vishesh*?" Is there something unique to speech? She meant, "Have you anything to say?"

Kalidasa began three of his major works with those very words, as a grand answer that there is something to speech. His play '*Kumara Sambhavam*' or The Birth of the War Lord, about the marriage of Shiva and Parvati, begins with the word '*Asti*'. '*Raghuvamsha*' or The Lineage of Sri Rama begins with '*Vaak*'. '*Kaschid*' occurs in the first stanza of '*Meghdoot*', The Cloud Messenger, an epic poem that vividly describes the beauty of the North Indian landscape, with Ujjain as its jewel.

I could go on, for Ujjain's legends are many and marvellous.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Hiring hobble

Ref: *IT stocks, jobs, AI fears* (Feb 15). Automation and autonomous processes are not an accident. The migration from CPU to GPU has resulted in a new threat of slowdown in hiring and loss of employment. It's a reality that needs to be addressed the soonest to avoid further job losses.

H Syed Othuman, email

People's mandate

Ref: *Dhaka's new era* (Feb 15). It was a breather to see Bangladesh choose a less orthodox regime than that of the other contesting coalition with a vituperative mindset against India. The result shows people's power wants a semblance of reality, idealism and historical necessity for the country to rescue itself from instability.

Jitendranath Guru, email

India's preparedness

Ref: *Republic of noddies* (Feb 15). In moments of technological acceleration, there is a natural temptation to mistake momentum for mastery and consensus for clarity. Yet transformative tech demands intellectual humility, regulatory imagination and ethical seriousness. This will require moving beyond ceremonial affirmation toward rigorous debate, transparent standards and willingness to confront uncomfortable questions.

Sanjeev Jha, New Delhi

Minority concern

Ref: *Tarique Rahman's oath ceremony* (Feb 15). The newly-elected government of Bangladesh has urged India to break from the past of raising concerns related to minorities in India. We wish to see that Bangladesh, too, treats its minorities as equal citizens without discrimination of any kind.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Civic apathy

Ref: *Mumbai pillar collapse* (Feb 15). It was gross negligence on the part of the contractor. The safety protocols were clearly not followed. This cannot be brushed aside as a one-off incident. Rigorous safety standards must be maintained.

S Sankaranarayanan, Chennai

Paper assurances

Ref: *More power to RERA* (Feb 15). The objectives of the Act were to ensure transparency, accountability and timely compliance. When deficiencies persist long after possession, homebuyers are left with uncertainty. Statutory obligations must be fulfilled in substance, not merely on paper.

Connie Newton, Thiruvananthapuram

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Supriya Shrinate @SupriyaShrinate
Then under which strategic autonomy did we stop buying Iranian oil, pulled out of Chabahar Port, and are still buying oil from Venezuela? Anything!!?

Derek O'Brien @derekobrienmp
More hollow words from PM Modi, aka Teleprompter Tycoon, who runs away from speaking on the floor of Parliament.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
India deserves better than repeated efforts to malign institutions and individuals without evidence. Accountability and truth must prevail over political theatrics

Focus on joint production of HAMMER bomber used in Op Sindoor • Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant to be star attraction

India and France to extend defence relations by 10 yrs

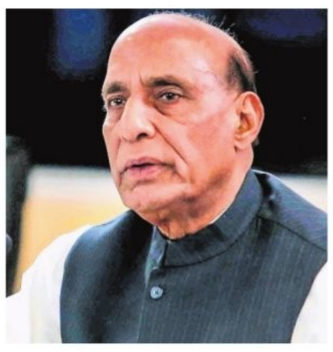
JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA and France are all set to further strengthen defence ties as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets his French counterpart Catherine Vautrin in Bengaluru on Tuesday for the 6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue, where the two sides will renew their defence cooperation agreement for another ten years. They will also take forward joint manufacturing of the HAMMER precision-guided munition in India and announce reciprocal deployment of officers between the Indian Army and French Land Forces establishments.

The meeting is being held during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India and comes days after the defence ministry cleared proposals including the ₹3.25 lakh crore programme for procurement of 114 Rafales.

The defence ministry on Sunday said the dialogue will review the "entire gamut of bilateral defence cooperation", with focus on expanding defence industrial collaboration as the partnership increasingly moves towards co-production and technology partnerships.

An MoU related to the joint manufacturing of the HAMMER precision-guided weapon system in India will be taken forward during the dialogue. The move builds on the Joint Venture Cooperation Agreement signed between Bharat Electronics Limited and Safran Electronics & Defence in November last year to manufacture the weapon through a 50:50 partnership. The arrangement provides for localisation of production, supply and maintenance of the system to support operational requirements while increasing indigenous content in high-end munitions.



The HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range), developed by Safran Electronics & Defence and integrated with the IAF's Rafale fighters, is a stand-off precision-guided air-to-ground weapon designed for strikes against hardened and high-value targets. The guided bomb was deployed by the IAF on May 7 to strike terror infrastructure in Pakistan. Sources said the proposed arrangement includes production of the HAMMER 250 XLR and HAMMER 1000 XLR variants, with extended stand-off ranges and an initial production capacity of around 1,000 units annually.

The two ministers will also witness the virtual inauguration of the H125 Light Utility Helicopter FAL (final assembly line) at Vemagal in Karnataka, a joint programme between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus Helicopters, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Macron.

Shift in procurement and technology partnerships

The expanding scope of cooperation reflects a broader shift in India's defence partnerships. While Russia has historically been India's principal supplier of major military platforms, India has increasingly diversified procurement and technology partnerships in recent years, with France and Israel emerging as key partners.

All QUAD members to be part of 74-nation naval exercise at east coast

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THE Indian Navy will host the International Fleet Review and Exercise MILAN in Visakhapatnam this week, bringing together representatives from around 74 countries for a ten-day maritime engagement off the eastern seaboard. The navies of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) will also be among the participants.

The indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, which led the Carrier Battle Group (CBG) during Operation Sindoor and compelled Pakistani warships to remain in harbour, is set to be the star attraction at both the fleet review and the multinational exercise.

The engagements will also include the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs and an International Maritime Seminar, bringing together naval leadership and maritime experts to discuss evolving regional security challenges and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

This is the first time, Exercise MILAN and the IONS engagements are being held simultaneously, making it the largest edition, with the likely participation from around 65 navies and over 90 warships and nearly 50 aircraft.

The scale of participation comes amid a more complex maritime environment marked by the rapid expansion of the Chinese PLA Navy and increased deployments in the Indian Ocean, as well as continued operational activity by Pakistan's Navy in the Arabian Sea. In this context, India's ability to convene a large number of navies assumes added strategic significance.

Participating nations include Russia, Iran, Bangladesh, Japan, Australia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and the Maldives, pointing to continued engagement with both major naval powers and regional littoral states.

All four QUAD members, the US, Japan and Australia along with host India, will also be participating, extending maritime engagement beyond the annual Malabar exercise.

China has repeatedly criticised the bloc, accusing it of trying to contain its regional influence and "inciting confrontation".

INSIDER TRACK

Rijiju's 'critical bill' hint for ONOE

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the second part of the Budget Session—from March 9 to April 2—will have several important bills, including one "critical bill". This has raised speculation that the One Nation One Election Bill may be introduced for passage. The bill aims to hold Lok Sabha and state assembly elections together. The Joint Parliamentary Committee reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, has not yet submitted its report, as stakeholders' consultations continue. Former Chief Justice B R Gavai told the panel that simultaneous elections do not violate the basic structure of the Constitution or its federal framework. Lawmakers and political analysts are watching.

Bihar Cong braces for big shake-up

Bihar Congress may get a new leadership team after poor results in recent Assembly elections. Central leadership is considering changes in the state unit. Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru and PCC chief Rajesh Ram are likely to be replaced as they face maximum heat, according to sources. Rahul Gandhi has pushed for a complete organisational reset. A new state committee may be announced soon. There may also be a working president to improve coordination and "keep the house in order". National observers are now reviewing district committees. The party has started a talent hunt for communication and research teams. Leaders hope these changes will help the party recover and strengthen its position in the state.

UGC rules spark BJP worries

The UGC's new rules for colleges have caused concern among general-class voters. Social media saw strong reactions, which worried BJP leaders. The party has asked MPs to talk to students and address concerns, especially young women. BJP leaders from the general classes are avoiding speaking openly against the new UGC rules, even though they are concerned about their future electoral prospects. Voters from the general classes are closely observing their silence, while BJP supporters from non-general classes favour the rule. "Neither can we swallow it, nor throw it away, as the rule concerns over 60% of voters. In vote-bank politics, society has once again begun witnessing casteism, which will damage unity within Hinduism," remarked a BJP leader bluntly.

New BJP chief, no team changes yet

Two months after Nitin Nabin became the BJP's national president, the expected organizational changes are yet to materialise. Many expected a reshuffle, especially in the media wing, which needs new leaders to handle the Opposition. Most central office-bearers remain the same. Sources said talks are ongoing in the Delhi office, and a major change may come about soon. Reports suggest new leaders may be added, while others without public support may be removed. A senior party member said the party needs new people to challenge Congress narratives effectively. Party leaders hope changes come in without further delay.

Akhilesh-Azad meeting fuels buzz

With just a year left before Uttar Pradesh's Assembly elections, the hobnobbing between two young leaders representing two distinct social bases in the state is sending signals to the ruling BJP and the former Chief Minister Mayawati-led BSP. It is reliably learnt that recently, SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav and emerging Dalit icon and MP, Chandrashekhar Azad 'Rawan', met in the National Capital. The event caught the attention of all, as it indicated a possible alliance between the two. That can trouble the BJP because of Chandrashekhar's growing stature amid the UGC equity rules controversy. The way Mayawati is wooing the upper castes, especially Brahmins, and the SP wooing Dalits suggests UP's political dynamics may undergo a change.

WAR OF WORDS

US trade deal 'betrayal' of farmers, alleges Rahul

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

> **In the name of a US trade deal, we are witnessing a betrayal of Indian farmers... How will they withstand another price shock... This isn't just about today. It's about the future too**
>
> Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader

CONGRESS Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday stepped up his attack against the government over the India–US interim trade agreement, directing a series of questions at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and alleging that the deal amounts to a "betrayal" of Indian farmers.

In a post on X in Hindi, Gandhi claimed that under the guise of strengthening trade ties with the US, the government may be opening the doors that could undermine domestic farmers and reshape the country's agricultural economy over the long term. "In the name of a US trade deal, we are witnessing a betrayal of Indian farmers," the Leader of Opposition said.

Among the specific issues he raised was the potential import of dried distillers' grains (DDG), a byproduct commonly used as animal feed. He asked whether this would mean Indian cattle would be fed distillers' grains derived from genetically modified (GM) American corn. He questioned whether such a move could make India's dairy sector dependent on US agricultural inputs.

Gandhi expressed concern about the possible import of genetically modified soy oil and asked how such a decision might affect soybean farmers in key producing states such as Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Farmers in these regions have faced price volatility. "How will they withstand another price shock," he asked.

Gandhi sought clarity on references to "additional products". He asked whether this phrase signalled pressure to gradually open up other crops to US imports. He warned that once market access is expanded, it may become difficult to restrict further concessions in subsequent negotiations.

'Stand on GM crops diluted'

Gandhi also raised concerns about the removal of what are described as "non-trade barriers." Gandhi asked whether this could eventually translate into pressure on India.

Congress lying to nation on pacts, counters Shah

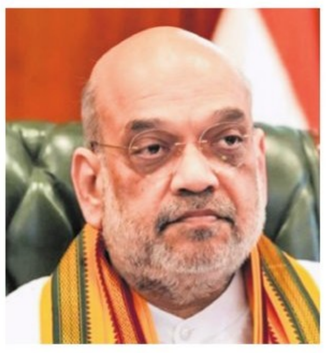
DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

> **They say Modi ji has harmed farmers through trade agreements with the EU, England and US. I have come to tell the farmers of the country that Rahul Gandhi is lying and misleading them**
>
> Amit Shah

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday hit out at Rahul Gandhi over trade deals and farmer issues, accusing the Congress leadership of "misleading the nation". He asserted that Modi government policies have protected farmers, dairy and agricultural exports globally.

Unveiling the country's first Central Bank Digital Currency-powered public distribution system in Gandhinagar, Shah threw down a challenge to the Leader of Opposition on the contentious issue of international trade deals. "I want to tell the prince of Congress Rahul Gandhi, who talks about farmers in Parliament how much grain did you buy from farmers? Compare 10 years of the UPA government and 10 years of the Narendra Modi government. We have bought 15 times more grain than you at the support price," he said.

He then pivoted to the global trade debate dismissing Opposition claims. "They say Modi ji has harmed farmers through trade agreements with the European Union, England and America. I have come to tell the farmers of the country that Rahul Gandhi is lying and misleading them. Modi ji has protected farmers in all these trade agreements. No one needs to worry," he said.



Sharpening his counter-attack, Shah invoked Gujarat's dairy strength to dismantle a "false narrative" of the Congress. "This is the land of dairy. Rahul Gandhi, you are spreading false rumours that Modi ji has ended our dairy sector through these trade deals. We are the ones paving the way for dairy growth. Modi ji has provided complete security to the dairy sector in both agreements," he said.

'Dairy sector protected'

Shah said Gandhi is "spreading lies" that PM Modi has finished India's dairy sector by signing these deals. "We are the people who expanded the dairy sector, not weakened it," he said.

Medical regulator begins to examine complaint pile-up against doctors

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

FOR over five years, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has been rejecting hundreds of complaints of medical negligence and misconduct against doctors. Now, finally, the regulatory body is examining the issue.

The turnaround came only after the Union Health Ministry asked the NMC, which regulates medical education, medical professions, institutes and research, to take "necessary action in accordance with law and to apprise the Ministry of the outcome."

But the rethink and the direction came only after the NMC's Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB), which regulates professional conduct and promotes medical ethics in the country, rejected as many as 256 appeals by patients and their relatives from September 15, 2020, to January 7, 2026, as per an RTI reply.

The directions from the ministry also came only after RTI activist Dr KV Babu flagged the issue with the ministry last year. Speaking with this newspaper, the Kerala-based Dr Babu pointed out, "As a response to my complaint to the Ministry of Health in October 2025, the Medical Education (Policy) section of the ministry wrote to NMC on January 20 to examine my complaint about rejecting appeals from patients and omissions on the part of NMC members."

"The EMRB wrote to me on February 5 stating that 'it is informed to you that the matter is under consideration'," said Dr Babu. "I believe the response from EMRB is a positive development. EMRB had been repeatedly rejecting appeals from patients against the State Medical Council's (SMCs) decision from 2020 onwards," he added.

In his letter to the ministry, Dr Babu also asked the ministry to form an appropriate body to examine alleged acts of omission and commission by certain Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) who have flouted the 1.9 of ethics regulations 2002, which means violation of any existing laws in the country is punishable.

Medicos can appeal against SMC decisions

Under the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act 2019, medical professionals can appeal against SMC decisions under Section 30(3) if found guilty of medical negligence. If the EMRB finds their act to be punishable, medical practitioners can make a second appeal under Section 30(4) of the NMC Act. But patients don't have that right, despite clause 8.8 of the NMC Act (now deleted), added on May 27, 2004, following the Supreme Court's directions.

More than half railways e-ticket requests fake

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID ever-rising demand for train travel, the Indian Railways identified and denied access to over 60 billion spurious attempts to its e-ticketing system out of more than 97.53 billion requests made for access during the last six months of 2025.

By promptly detecting and filtering such fraudulent attempts, the Railways allowed bookings through the e-ticketing system for only 37.1 billion requests, while the remaining requests were identified as bots. The highest number of requests, nearly 24.04 billion, was recorded in October 2025, traditionally one of India's busiest months due to Dussehra and other celebrations, when demand for train tickets soars high.

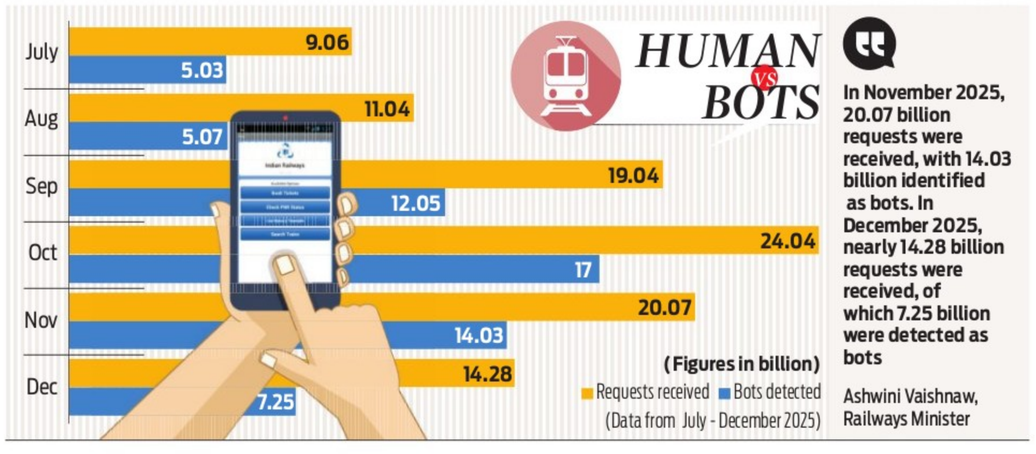
Notably, the Railways found that nearly 17 billion of the 24.04 billion requests were generated by bots, and these were denied access to the e-ticketing system. Despite the reservation ticket booking system of Indian Railways being a robust and highly secure IT platform, equipped with industry-standard, state-of-the-art cyber security controls, the Railways digitally and through its agencies detected 60.43 billion out of 97.53 billion access requests as bots and denied them access as part of its large-scale efforts to curb fraud in Tatkal and other e-ticketing bookings.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Minister of Railways, in a written reply to the Upper House of Parliament recently, stated that several anti-fraud measures have been adopted to prevent unauthorised access and to ensure seamless booking for genuine users.

According to an official Railway data, in July 2025, 9.06 billion requests were made to access the e-ticketing system, of which 5.03 billion were identified as bots and denied access. In August 2025, out of a total of 11.04 billion requests, 5.07 billion were detected as bots.

In September 2025, the Railways received 19.04 billion requests for access to the e-ticketing system, of which 12.5 billion were bots.

As per the data shared by the Railway Minister, the Railways received 24.04 billion requests for access to the e-ticketing system in October, 2025, of which 17 billion were bots. Data shows further, "In November 2025, 20.07 billion requests were received, with 14.03 billion identified as bots. In December 2025, nearly 14.28 billion requests were received, of which 7.25 billion were detected as bots".



> **In November 2025, 20.07 billion requests were received, with 14.03 billion identified as bots. In December 2025, nearly 14.28 billion requests were received, of which 7.25 billion were detected as bots**
>
> Ashwini Vaishnaw, Railways Minister

BALLOON

A balloon bearing the name of Pakistan International Airlines was found inside an Air Force technical area in Agra, police said on Sunday. ACP Gaurav Singh said a case was registered.

2 KILLED — ONE HURT IN BIKE-BUS COLLISION IN RAJASTHAN

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	17	Mumbai	31	23
Bhopal	29	16	Panaji	32	22
Jaipur	28	13	Patna	27	13
Amritsar	25	11	Lucknow	27	13
Chennai	29	21	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	29	16	Imphal	26	09
Srinagar	10	01	Chandigarh	25	11

Weapon system targeted at neutralising UAVs that escape radar detection • Security agencies say global crypto scam networks involved

Army wants 'drone catchers' with nets to fight intrusion across LoC

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE Army has sought 'drone catchers'—automated drones equipped with nets to ensnare or destroy hostile machines—to counter increasing threats from small drones and unmanned aerial systems (UAS), which are hard to detect by conventional radars.

The defence ministry has issued a request for information (RFI) to the vendors for procurement of the drone catcher system. "The air threat from low radar cross section drones (RCS) and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) employed individually or as a 'swarm' has grown exponentially. There is an urgent requirement to develop and procure suitable weapon systems for countering and neutralising this emerging threat. A drone catcher system is required to detect and counter the low RCS drone or UAS by utilising the net catcher," the RFI said.

Drone incursions from across the border on the Line of Control (LOC) have witnessed a surge in recent times. The purpose of these drone incursions is to drop weapons to be used by terrorists or narcotics substances for narco terrorism.

The RFI noted that the proposed system should be able to deploy independently or in conjunction with in-service air defence weapon systems and other C-UAS weapon systems in terrain conditions. "The proposed system should have a surveillance, detection, and tracking capability, a microprocessor for computing a targeting solution, and a drone with a net catcher facility as per the system, along with a ground control station (GCS)," it said.

The RFI document states that the drone sensor will be based on electronically scanned array technology and should be able to scan large volumes of airspace for drone intrusions. "It should be able to detect the target drones all around with a minimum detection, tracking capability of 20 drones/ and UAS simultaneously. The drone sensor should be able to detect, track and prioritize and thereafter designate the hostile targets to the drone catcher through the GCS. The slant range of the drone sensor should be 4 kilometers or more (for 0.01 Sqm RCS)," the document read.

The document states that the drone catcher system will have a ground control station (GCS) which will feed information received from the drone sensor to the drone catcher remotely via a data link for effective measures for capture or destruction of the hostile drone. "The sensor should be compatible for integration with the Akashteer control and reporting air defence module through hardware interfaces with inbuilt software. It should also meet the Army Cyber Group evaluation criteria for being onboarded on to the Army data network," it added.

The ground control station will include a laptop or tablet computer that will be used to display telemetry information of hostile drones from the sensor and this will be passed on to the drone catchers. "The jammer subsystem shall provide electronic attack capabilities against hostile UAS, including RF denial, selective GNSS denial, and GNSS deception, across standard and non-standard frequency bands. The system shall support controlled and selective application of soft-kill measures and be capable of operating concurrently with hard-kill effectors without mutual interference," adds the RFI.

The system will be employed across all terrain and climatic conditions in India -from plains, deserts, and coastal areas to high-altitude and mountainous area and in temperatures ranging from -15 degrees Celsius to 45 degrees Celsius.

Drone sensor will feed information to catcher

The drone catcher system will have a ground control station (GCS) which will feed information received from the drone sensor to the drone catcher remotely via a data link for effective measures for capture or destruction of the hostile drone. The system will be employed across all terrain and climatic conditions in India.

Over 8,000 digital hawala accounts frozen in J&K; funds intended for terror

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

SECURITY agencies have busted a vast network of "mule accounts" operating in Jammu and Kashmir amid concerns that funds funnelled through these may have been diverted to fuel separatist and anti-national activities in the Union Territory.

Sources said over 8,000 mule accounts have been identified and frozen across Jammu and the UT in the past three years.

They said the security agencies believe that the NIA cracked down on illegal money flows in 2017, and anti-national groups shifted to a new form of "digital hawala".

According to sources, the investigators believe the network functioned as the financial backbone of international scam operations, enabling stolen funds to be layered, transferred and ultimately converted into untraceable crypto-currency.

The central agencies have directed J&K Police and other agencies probing the issue to coordinate closely with banks and financial institutions to curb the mushrooming of such accounts and identify the middlemen known as "mulers", who facilitate the fraud.

Sources said detecting a money trail through the mule accounts is deliberately complex.

"The funds are rapidly shifted across multiple accounts and broken into smaller amounts to evade detection before being converted into cryptocurrency through private digital wallets," they said.

They cited a recent case in J&K, where police successfully traced and recovered nearly ₹40 lakhs out of ₹52 lakhs in a major cyber arrest fraud case involving a retired Air Force officer, who was subjected to "digital arrest fraud" for nine days.

"The police sleuths investigating the case traced beneficiary bank accounts and followed the money trail across multiple financial layers. Within three hours of receiving the complaint, police investigators traced ₹11.90 lakh to a suspected Yes Bank account in Jodhpur," a police official said.

The efforts led to an additional ₹28 lakhs in a second layer of suspected accounts. The amount was instantly placed on hold by invoking the newly issued SOP.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

MP Cong dissolves 4 dists' executive panels

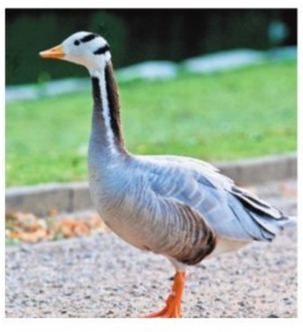
Madhya Pradesh Congress has dissolved its executive committees in four districts, including Kamal Nath's erstwhile citadel Chhindwara, following directives from the AICC. The three other district executive committees dissolved are: Mauganj, Sagar, and Jhabua districts. The committees were dissolved just two days after their creation. The AICC had instructed that executive committees should have limited members, 31 members in small districts and 51 in large districts. However, much larger teams were decided in the four concerned districts, with Chhindwara reportedly having 250 members.

3 BJP MLAs vying for chief whip post

Two years after the BJP formed its new government in MP under Dr Mohan Yadav's leadership, the party is planning to appoint a chief whip in the Vidhan Sabha. Names of three senior legislators: former Assembly Speaker Dr Sitasaran Sharma, senior most MLA and ex-minister and former LoP Gopal Bhargava and former minister Ajay Vishnoi are believed to be in the race for the chief whip of the party in the 230-member House, whose budget session is slated to start from February 16. All three leaders, who have held major decision making positions in the House in the previous BJP regimes, are currently having no significant responsibility.

Rare goose spotted in Panna jungles

Counted among one of the highest-flying birds in the world, the bar-headed goose has been recently spotted for the first time in the jungles of Panna South Forest Division in the state's Bundelkhand region. The pale-grey birds which are known to breed in Central Asia, but reaches extreme altitudes even at lowest oxygen while migrating across the Himalayas, were recently spotted and snapped in the Sunehi beat of Pawai Range by the range officer Nitesh Patel. According to top brass of the Panna South Forest Division, the spotting of bar-headed goose is a natural indicator that the water bodies and wetlands are environmentally safe and rich, and free from human interference.



MEGHALAYA

Retired judge to head probe panel in coal mine blast

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Meghalaya government has constituted a three-member judicial commission, headed by retired high court judge R S Chauhan, to probe the January 5 blast in the state's East Jaintia Hills district that left 32 miners dead.

According to a notification issued by Meghalaya Chief Secretary Dr Shakil P Ahammed, retired IPS officer H Nongpluh and retired IAS officer P.S. Dkhar are the two other members of the commission that will conduct a probe into the circumstances leading to the tragedy.

The panel, set up under the Commission of Inquiry Act 1952, has been asked to submit a "comprehensive fact-finding report..." and examine the root causes of illegal coal mining in the coal-rich state. It will recommend remedial measures, including administrative and institutional reforms, to be adopted by the state government to prevent such incidents in the future.

The judicial probe is in addition to ongoing separate investigations by the police and a Special Investigation Team.

Real-time cheating scam for GATE exam busted in C'garh, six youth arrested

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AN organised cheating racket targeting the national-level Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) was busted at a Raipur exam centre on Sunday and six people, all from Haryana, were arrested. DCP (Raipur west) Sandeep Patel, who led the operation, said specialised electronic communication equipment were seized from the accused.

Acting on an intelligence alert, a joint task force comprising the Raipur police and the Anti-Crime & Criminal Unit launched surveillance around the ION Digital Zone in Sarona area of the Chhattisgarh capital. Six people acting suspiciously and carrying unauthorised electronic gear were taken into custody, police said.

"Investigation revealed a sophisticated, real-time cheating mechanism. Candidates inside the hall were equipped with concealed, microscopic Bluetooth devices," a police statement said. "After the arrests, police coordinated with exam officials to identify and search specific candidates in the hall.

Searches yielded hidden Bluetooth devices, confirming the involvement of students in cheating," the statement said.

The racket functioned through a two-way audio stream: The 'transmission' where candidates would whisper questions into hidden microphones and the 'research' under which accomplices stationed outside the centre used search engines to find correct answers that were then relayed back into the candidate's ear in real-time. The six accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

Modus Operandi

The racket functioned through a two-way audio stream: The 'transmission' where candidates would whisper questions into hidden microphones and the 'research' under which accomplices stationed outside the centre used search engines.

After Modi sortie, Himanta seeks more highway airstrips

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Assam government has written to Centre seeking more emergency landing facilities (ELFs), Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4.2-km Moran Bypass ELF in Dibrugarh district on Saturday when an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J aircraft carrying him made a historic touchdown on the highway airstrip.

"Assam will get four to five more ELFs. The IAF can use these for military use and to supply relief materials during floods," Sarma told media persons, adding that strategic decisions help civil administration.

According to him, the Moran ELF – located 200 km from China and 70 km from Myanmar borders – is a high-stake project which will give strategic security to the Northeast. "The presence of the Prime Minister and the Air Chief Marshal yesterday was a strong message that India is ready to face the enemy," he said.

Two days ago, the Cabinet approved the 33.7 km 4-lane corridor from Gohpur to Numaligarh. It will be built at a cost of ₹18,662 crore.

"We need this project because the Northeast situation is strategic. This is a strategic project, fully backed by the Indian Army. It has four stakeholders – Assam government, Indian Army, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and Indian Railways," CM Sarma said.

He referred to Centre's plans to build an underground railway line through the "Chicken's Neck," also known as the Siliguri Corridor, stating that it will secure railway.

"Strategic infrastructures are coming up also in Arunachal Pradesh. The railway will go up to Tawang (India-China border town). Two highways are under construction. Assam is the backup state and a strategic theatre in the event of a war. The Moran ELF, Numaligarh-Gohpur tunnel and railway corridor beneath the Chicken's Neck are important strategic projects," Sarma said.

He disclosed that a proposal to build a national highway connecting Assam's Jagiroad semiconductor unit with Bhutan is under active consideration. "I thank the Prime Minister for building strategic assets," he added.

This is a strategic project, fully backed by the Indian Army. It has four stakeholders – Assam government, Indian Army, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited and Indian Railways –Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Less snow affects bear rest in U'khand, attacks go up

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A disturbing trend is emerging in the highlands of Uttarakhand as bears, deprived of their natural winter slumber, are increasingly venturing into human settlements, according to experts.

Since January, at least nine incidents of bear attacks have been reported across the state, leaving local residents in a state of panic and the Forest Department on high alert.

Typically, bears retreat to their dens for hibernation as temperatures drop and snow blankets the higher reaches. However, this winter has seen erratic weather patterns. Wildlife experts suggest that without the "trigger" of heavy snow, bears remain active in search of food.

Ranganath Pandey, a wildlife expert and former Deputy Director of the Uttarakhand Forest Department, explained the specific conditions required for hibernation. "For a bear to enter a state of winter sleep, consistent and heavy snowfall is essential. Ideally, there should be at least one foot of standing snow at altitudes of 2,500 metres for a period of three months. Since October, both rainfall and snowfall have remained significantly below average," Pandey noted.

Nine attacks since Jan

Since January, at least nine bear attacks have been reported across the state, leaving local residents in a state of panic and the Forest Department on high alert.

Soren asks forest officials to check elephant attacks

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

EXPRESSING deep concern over the rising human-elephant claiming nearly 30 lives in the last few months, CM Hemant Soren has issued strict instructions to prevent elephant attacks and protect the lives and property.

Holding a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department at his residence late in the evening on Saturday, the CM issued instructions to curb fatalities caused by elephant attacks in the state.

Soren, during the meeting, directed officials to take immediate and effective measures for rescue and protection in affected areas where elephants are causing damage to life and property.

Recent reports indicate around 27 people have died in the past few months in areas, including Ramgarh, Bokaro, Hazaribagh, West and East Singhbhum, Lohardaga, Gumla, and Dumka.

The CM also directed the officials to prepare elephant rescue teams by providing special technical training to villagers in areas where elephants are causing damage.

"Villagers should be provided with diesel and kerosene oil for lighting torches, old tires, flashlights, solar sirens, etc. to help them drive away elephants, he said, adding that, the forest department should establish better coordination with the villagers.

MP from J&K comes under fire from NC, PDP for spending quota fund in UP

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE BJP Rajya Sabha MP from Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Ali Khatana has come under fire from National Conference and PDP for spending a major portion of his Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds on developmental works in Uttar Pradesh rather than J&K.

Khatana, a senior J&K BJP leader and a prominent Gujjar face of the party, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in September 2022.

The MP has allocated ₹14.70 crore from the funds. Under the MPLADS scheme, each MP is entitled to recommend projects worth ₹5 crore annually for the creation of community assets.

Out of the 176 developmental works sanctioned by the MP, 144 projects, amounting to ₹10.58 crores ((94% of funds), were carried out in Uttar Pradesh. In contrast, only 32 works of ₹94 lakh were taken up in Jammu and Kashmir.

The spending pattern of Khatana's MPLADS funds has drawn sharp criticism from the ruling National Conference and opposition PDP in J&K.

"What is the purpose of nominating an MP from J&K if 94% of his development funds are spent in UP? This exposes the harsh truth: J&K's representation has been reduced to symbolism, while its people are denied their rightful share. Shameful and unacceptable. Our people deserve commitment, not BJP's tokenism. Wake up Jammu!," National Conference spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said in a post on X.

According to PDP youth president Aditya Gupta, "The MP spent 94% of his MPLAD funds in UP. He entered Parliament from Jammu Kashmir but his development funds went to UP... This is the BJP model; votes from Jammu, funds for UP. Jammu wasn't betrayed by outsiders, it has always been our own MPs and MLAs who sold our interests," he said.

₹10.58 crore for UP

Out of the 176 developmental works sanctioned by the MP, 144 projects, amounting to ₹10.58 crores ((94% of funds), were carried out in Uttar Pradesh. In contrast, only 32 works of ₹94 lakh were taken up in J&K.

Iran open to nuclear compromise, ties it to US sanctions lift

New round of uranium talks due next week in Geneva, while Tehran has not confirmed attendance yet

TEHRAN

IRAN is ready to compromise on its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in exchange for US sanctions being lifted, its deputy foreign minister said in a *BBC* interview published on Sunday. Majid Takht-Ravanchi's remarks followed a resumption of nuclear talks between Iran and the United States in Oman on February 6. Switzerland on Saturday announced that a new round of talks would take place in Geneva next week, but without specifying which day.

Iran has not yet officially confirmed the new round of talks, but Takht-Ravanchi, who was in Iran's Oman delegation led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, said they would be on Tuesday, the BBC reported. Western countries, led by the United States as well as by Israel, Iran's arch-enemy and considered by experts to be the only nuclear power in the Middle East, accuse the Islamic republic of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

Tehran denies military ambitions but insists on its right to technology for civilian purposes. Iran is ready to compromise to reach a deal with the United States, including diluting enriched uranium, but Washington must lift sanctions crippling Iran's economy, Takht-Ravanchi told the BBC. "If we see the sincerity on their (American) part, I am sure we will be on a road to have an agreement," he said, speaking in English.

The BBC said he was also questioned about the possibility of Tehran agreeing to ship its stockpile of more than 400 kilos of highly enriched uranium out of the country and did not rule out a compromise, staying "it is too early to say" what will happen at the talks. Several countries, including Russia, have offered to take responsibility for the stockpile, an offer Iran has so far refused. *AFP*

Ready for reset in ties, ball in India's court: Bangladesh

DHAKA

BANGLADESH wants to reset ties with India on a fresh footing now that ousted premier Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League party no longer hold power, Humayun Kabir, adviser to BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman, has said, asserting that the two nations should work together for "mutual benefit". Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Friday secured a sweeping victory with more than two-thirds majority in the landmark parliamentary elections held on Thursday.

In an interview to PTI Videos on Saturday, Kabir stressed that the onus lies on India to recognise the changed political reality in Bangladesh after the BNP's resounding electoral mandate. "The change has to come from the mindset in India. Sheikh Hasina and Awami League don't exist in today's Bangladesh anymore. The people have given a clear verdict in favour of BNP," Kabir said.

Kabir described Hasina, who fled to India after 2024's August uprising, as a "terrorist" responsible for the deaths of over 1,500 people. Kabir urged the Indian government to ensure that its territory is not used by Hasina or other Awami League figures in ways that could affect stability in Bangladesh. *PTI*

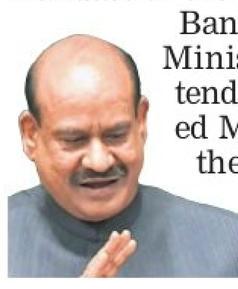
Om Birla to attend B'desh oath ceremony

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

LOK Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Bangladeshi government led by BNP's Tarique Rahman in Dhaka on Tuesday.

According to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Speaker's participation underscores the deep and enduring friendship between the people of the two countries.

"As neighbours united by a shared history, culture, and mutual respect, India welcomes Bangladesh's transition to an elected government under the leadership of H E Tarique Rahman, whose vision and values have received an overwhelming mandate of the people," the MEA stated.



Bangladesh had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the event. The newly elected MPs are scheduled to take their oath on Tuesday morning, followed by the swearing-in of the cabinet in the evening.

BNP chief Tarique Rahman calls on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ameer Shafiqur Rahman at latter's residence on Sunday

I extend congratulations in advance to BNP Chairman. He came to my residential office today. His arrival is a historic moment for our national politics

Shafiqur Rahman, Jamaat leader

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. MANISH GOYAL, S/o. Mr. Hari Om Goyal, Aged about 43 years, No. 27 and 28, 1st Cross, Achiah Shetty Layout, R M V Extension, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru – 560080, intends to purchase an immovable property consisting of land with a building over it, bearing new No. 11 (old No. 184), Municipal ID / old PID : 093-W0201-12, 78-86-11, UPOR Property ID : Z39-S06-DL3, ULPIN : 74V051DAYEA3HZ, Application No. 1600119473, Ward No. 93 (old No. 78), 2nd Cross, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru–560052, which site area measuring East - West : 66 feet on the Northern side, 73 feet on the Southern side, North - South : 40 feet, total site area 2780 Sq. Ft., together with a building constructed over it, comprising of ground floor plus four upper floors, with a total built up area of about 7278 Sq. Ft., with all the amenities, and the entire property is bounded on East by : Property Nos. 11, 12, and 13 on the 3rd Cross, West by : 25 feet Road, North by : Property New No. 10 (old No. 183), South by : Property New No. 12 (old No. 185).

In case any person has any right, title, interest, claim of whatsoever nature, by way of sale, gift, lease, heir ship, possession, or any other nature in respect of the aforesaid property, the same should be known in writing to me at the address below with the documentary proof within 10 (ten) days from the date hereof, failing which it shall be construed that such claim is waived, abandoned.

Sd/-
VIJAYENDRA REDDY R
Advocate and Legal Consultant
JMBR and Associates,
Chamber 212, 2nd Floor,
No. 10, Sri Krishna avenue building, Above Canara Bank, Near Mysore Bank Circle,
Avenue Road, Bengaluru – 560002
Mo: 9964861293 /
E-mail: vijayendrareddygr@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned "Schedule Property" from its lawful owner,

Mr. C.C. CHACKO

Having acquired the same through a Registered Sale Deed dtd: 07.03.2002 from Sri. T.R.Venkatesh, vide Registered Document No.: BNG(U)-BLR(S)-12739/2001-02, of Book-I, at the office of the Sub-registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

Anyone having any objections to the proposed sale may lodge their claim with the undersigned with related documents, **within 21 (Twenty One) days from the date of this publication**, failing which my client would proceed with further transaction and documentation / execution of sale deed, and any claim lodged thereafter shall not be reckoned with and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.599**, measuring East to West: 60 Feet & North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet; Katha No.255/5, **formed out of Sy. Nos. 80/1 and 92/1, of Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District**, bounded on the East by: Site No.626; West by: Road; North by: Site No.599-A; South by: Site No.600.

Bangalore. Date: 16/02/2026

Lepanna R.
Advocate. KAR/1057/2008
No. 46/4, 1st Floor, Brindavan Comple, 4th Cross
Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003.
Mob: 98456 62048

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned "Schedule Property" from its lawful owners,

Mrs. SALY THOMAS
Mr. ROBIN T. GEORGE
(Represented by his GPA holder & Brother - Mr. Libin T. George)
Mr. LIBIN T. GEORGE

Having acquired the same through a Registered Sale Deed by Late Mr. Thomas George (husband of Mrs.Saly Thomas and Father of Mr. Robin T. George & Mr. Libin T. George) dtd: 07.03.2002 from Sri. T.R.Venkatesh, vide Registered Document No.: BNG(U)-BLR(S)-12743/2001-02, of Book-I, at the office of the Sub-registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.

Anyone having any objections to the proposed sale may lodge their claim with the undersigned with related documents, **within 21 (Twenty One) days from the date of this publication**, failing which my client would proceed with further transaction and documentation / execution of sale deed, and any claim lodged thereafter shall not be reckoned with and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No.600**, measuring East to West: 60 Feet & North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 2400 Square Feet; Katha No.255/5, **formed out of Sy. Nos. 80/1 and 92/1, of Doddathoguru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District**, bounded on East by: Site No.625; West by: Road; North by: Site No. 599; South by: Site No.601.

Bangalore. Date: 16/02/2026

Lepanna R.
Advocate. KAR/1057/2008
No. 46/4, 1st Floor, Brindavan Comple, 4th Cross
Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560003.
Mob: 98456 62048

WESTERN RAILWAY
PROVISION OF LIFTS

Sr. DEE/P/BCT invites **Tender Notice No. EL-166-160-WA-84, Date:13-02-2026 (Two Packet System). Work and Location:** Mumbai Division (Non Suburban Section) - Provision of Lifts (27 Nos) on FOBs of stations (Composite tender for Electrical and Civil work). **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 17,04,37,423.81/- **EMD:** ₹ 10,02,200.00/- **Date & Time of Submission:** till 10.03.2026, 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time Opening:** on 10.03.2026 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** 1124

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IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL BENGALURU, COMMERCIAL COURT
Com. Ex. No. 487/2025

BETWEEN : Mr. Ramakrishnan P. Ramaswamy and Another ...Decree Holders
AND : Mr. D.R.S.L.S.N Murthy and Others ...Judgement Debtors

NOTICE TO JUDGEMENT DEBTORS NO.15 and 16 BY WAY OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20-A OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

1. **Sri. Annamdevula Nageswara Rao,** S/o. A. Venkataveera Bhadrudu, Aged about 57 years, R/at No.37, Nanjappa Layout, 2nd Main, 6th Cross, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore -560 097. ...Judgement Debtor No.15
2. **Sri. G. Narayana Reddy,** S/o. Sri. Venkataswamy Reddy, Aged about 65 years, R/at No. 42, 5th Cross, Kaiiyamma Temple Road, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore 560 057. ...Judgement Debtor No.16

Whereas, the Decree Holders herein have filed the above-mentioned Commercial Execution Number 487/2025 against the Judgement Debtors for the execution of the Arbitral Award dated 24.04. 2023 passed in AC No.28/2022, seeking for the attachment and sale of the Schedule Property mentioned below and for arrest and detention of the Judgements Debtors till the satisfaction of the Arbitral Award. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court of ADDL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL, BENGALURU, COMMERCIAL COURT (11th P.D.J) either in person or through a pleader to answer the claim of the Decree Holder on **28/02/2026 at 11.00 am.,** failing which the case will be heard and decided Ex-Parte on merits

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immoveable properties measuring 1 Acre 18 Guntas in Sy.No. 34/4, 01 Acre 34 Guntas in Sy No. 35, 04 Acres and 21 Guntas in Sy.No. 36, converted from Agricultural to Non Agricultural purpose vide conversion order bearing No.B. DIS.ALN.SR (NA). 216/2004-05 dated 26-10-2004 and 01 Acre in Sy No. 37/1, 01 Acre 07 Guntas in Sy.No. 37/2 and 2 Acres in Sy. No. 37/3 duly converted for Non-Agricultural Residential purpose vide Conversion Order bearing No.B.DIS.ALN.SR. (N.A). 217/2004-05 dated 26-10-2004 in total measuring 12 acres situated at Doddajala Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on the: **East by :** Nala and Road,
West by : Land in Sy. No. 38, remaining land in Sy. No. 34/4, land in Sy. No.34/3 and Sy No. 35
North by : Remaining land in Sy. No. 34/4 and land in Sy.No. 38; and
South by : Land in Sy. Nos. 10 & 11 and Road.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THIS COURT ON THIS 13th DAY OF February 2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar,
Commercial Court Bengaluru (R) Dist, III Floor,
Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore - 01
Advocate for Decree Holder

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general information that I, Srushti Mallikarjun Havaldarmath, D/o Mallikarjun Madiwalayya Havaldarmath, R/o House No. 550, Pruthvi Nilaya, 8th cross, 5th Main, AMS Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru - 560097, Karnataka, declare that mine, my father and my mother have been wrongly written as Srushti M H, Mallikarjun M H, Mamata M H, in my class 10th, class 12th and My name as Srushti M H in Bachelor of Architecture Degree certificate and in my aadhaar as Srushti M H. And my father as MALLIKARJUN HAVALDARMATH in my passport. The names of mine, father's and my mother's name are as SRUSHTI MALLIKARJUN HAVALDARMATH, MALLIKARJUN MADIWALAYYA HAVALDARMATH and MAMATA MALLIKARJUN HAVALDARMATH respectively and which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have compiled with other legal requirements in this connection, vide affidavit dated 14.02.2026 sworn before notary R Ramesh, Bengaluru.

IN THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, AT BANGALORE
Case No : O.A. No.1880/2024

Summons under sub-section(4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub - Rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Between : **State Bank of India** ...Applicant
And:
Sri Rama K. S. And Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993

To
1. **Mr. Ramu K. S.** S/o. K. R. Srinviasan
2. **Mrs. Smitha K. Murthy** W/o. Ramu, R/o No. 62/13, 1st 'B' Cross, 5th Block, Behind Kamakya Theatre, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085.
Also at : ii. No. 54, Sri Enclave, 1st Cross, 2nd Block, Onkar nagar, Srinivasapura, Behind SBI Bank, Bangalore - 560 076.
ii. Flat No. 01, Dream Delight Apartment, Katha No. 496, 39/10/48/4/5/1, Uttarahalli, Bangalore - 560 060.
iv. " Midhila Deluxe" Apartment No. 311, 3rd Floor, Maruthi Nagar, Kogilu Village Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064.

Whereas, this Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendant(s) you for recovery of a sum **Amount of debt in Rs.1,62,97,110/-** Defendant(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed , in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **30.03.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this the **29.01.2026**

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debt Recovery Tribunal-1

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PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

IN THE COURT OF XXX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-31), AT BENGALURU, P & SC No. 33/2026

BETWEEN: Sri V.B.Deshpande @ Vasudev Bhimrao Deshpande, S/o Late Bheema Rao Deshpande @ B.A. Deshpande, Aged about 89 years, Residing at No. 331/1, 2nd Main Road, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003. .....**Petitioner**
AND
Nil. .....**Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above named petitioner has made the above petition to this Court under Section 278 r/w section 372 of Indian Succession Act, for issuance of Succession Certificate and Letters of Administration in favour of him, in respect of the Schedule Property, to the deceased Late Sri.K.B.Deshpande died on 12.10.2015, Late Smt. Hema K. Deshapande died on 13.07.2018, and Late Miss. Meera K. Deshapande, died on 20.09.2018, all of whom died intestate. The below mentioned Schedule Properties were held by the deceased, who are the brother, sister-in-law and niece of the petitioner respectively. Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear in the XXX Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-31), at Bengaluru, in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 09.03.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** to show cause against the petitioner failing which the petition will be heard and determined thereby declaring you ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1 Schedule A (Immovable Property) : All that piece and parcel of House No. 87-A, Block-II, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 45 feet, together with all easements and appurtenances whatsoever, whether underneath or above the surface, and bounded on: North : Road, South : House No. 82-B, East : House No. 87-B, West : House No. 86-A
Item No.2 - Schedule B (Debts & Securities) : Fixed Deposit of 50,000/- with accrued interest in SBI, Rajajinagar Branch, FD Account No. 64089413395, standing in the name of Late Smt. Hema K.Deshapande (SB A/c No. 54021729482).
Item No.3 : Fixed Deposit of 20,000/- with accrued interest in SBI, Rajajinagar Branch, FD Account No. 64137929962, standing in the name of Late Smt. Hema K. Deshapande.
Item No.4 : All articles including documents, money, jewellery, etc., kept in Safe Deposit Locker No. 225 at SBI, Rajajinagar Branch, standing in the name of Late Smt. Hema K. Deshapande.
Item No.5 : All Mutual Fund investments with KFin Technologies Limited (UTI Mutual Funds), Selenium Tower-B, Plot Nos. 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Mandal, Hyderabad 500032, Folio No.517297727081, standing in the name of Late Smt. Hema K. Deshapande.
Item No.6 : Balance amount in Savings Bank Account No. 54021729482 with State Bank of India, Rajajinagar Branch, Bengaluru, standing in the name of Late Smt. Hema K. Deshapande.

Given under my hand and seal on this the **10th day of February, 2026.**

Advocate for Petitioner
Vinay Shreyas K.V. Advocate
No.116/6, 11th Cross, Next to Union Bank,
Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560 003.
M:8880553666 | E: advvinayshreyas@gmail.com

By Order of the court
senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

SALE NOTICE

UNDER INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2016
SAALIM SHOES PVT. LTD.
(UNDER LIQUIDATION)
CIN : U19111TN2006PTC060267
Regd. Office: No.: 1-A, Regency Apartment, No.: 5, 1st Lane, Nungambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034, Tamil Nadu, India.
Factory Premises : 'A' - UNIT No. 143/3, M.B.T. Road, Walajah Taluk, Ranipet - 632401.
'TANNERY' No. 63/1, 63/2, Ammoor Road, Manthangal Village, Walajah Taluk, Ranipet - 632404.
'G'-UNIT, No. 28/8B, Chinna Kukkundi, Kalavai Road, Arcot, Ranipet - 632503.
(The CD is in the business of manufacturing the Leather & Footwear, The export of footwear, leather and leather products)

The property of Corporate Debtor, M/s. Saalim Shoes Private Limited (Under Liquidation) are offered for Sale under Regulation 32 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 as amended from time to time, by the appointed Liquidator of the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai, under "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" condition. The Sale will be conducted through e-auction platform "https://baanknet.com", (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each).

Inspection period : From 17.02.2026 To 17.03.2026 (Between 10 am & 4 pm)
DATE OF E-AUCTION : 20.03.2026 (FRIDAY)

SLOT TIMING	Asset Description	Manner of Sale	Reserve Price ₹	EMD Amount ₹	Incremental Bid Amt ₹
11:00 AM to 1 PM	LAND & BUILDING	AS IS WHERE-IS BASIS	32.50 Cr.	250 Lakhs	5 Lakhs

Terms and Conditions :
1. The e-auction will be conducted on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is basis" and "No recourse basis" only through E-auction.
2. The EMD amount shall be required to be deposited in the https://baanknet.com portal wallet.
3. The Bid shall be submitted through online mode only in the format prescribed.
4. The Last date of submission of EMD and filled in Tender Documents is **17.03.2026**.
5. For detailed terms and conditions of E-auction Sale, please refer the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM available on https://baanknet.com or email to the Liquidator at saalim.liquidation@gmail.com for E-auction process contact : support.baanknet@psballiance.com // Helpline - 8291220220.
6. The Liquidator has the right to add, modify or cancel any terms and conditions in the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM and to extend or shorten anytime limit specified in the said document. He has the right to accept or reject any of the bids without giving any reason whatsoever.
7. The payments made after 30 days shall attract interest at the rate of 12% p.a. and the Sale shall be cancelled if the payment is not received within the period provided in the TENDER DOCUMENT/PROCESS MEMORANDUM.
8. The Land and Building under Sale will be handed over UNDER AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION ONLY.
9. The Factory premises at Ranipet can be inspected from 17.02.2026 to 17.03.2026 between 10 am and 4 pm on prior appointment and request by email to saalim.liquidation@gmail.com.

Dr. S.R. SHRIRAAM SHEKHER
Liquidator
SAALIM SHOES PVT. LTD. (Under Liquidation)
saalim.liquidation@gmail.com
IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N000144/2017-2018/11598
11, Prayag Apartments, 8-15, Gandhi Nagar
First Main Road, Adyar, Chennai-600 020
Place : Chennai-20
Date : 14.02.2026

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.83,30,907/- (Rupees Eighty Three Lakh Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven only)** as on **15-04-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **16-04-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Sree Anjana Enterprises, No.124, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, JNC Road, KHB Colony, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095. Also at, M/s. Sree Anjana Enterprises, 4th Cross, No.82, Ground Floor, 7th Block, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore - 560095. No.2) Mrs. S. Gayathri, W/o. S.M. Krishna, No.142, 3rd Cross, 6th Block, 18th Main, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034. Also at, Mrs. S. Gayathri, W/o. S.M. Krishna, No.413, Ground Floor, 1st Cross, 7th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095. No.3) Mr. S.M. Krishna, S/o. Anjaiah Setty, No.142, 3rd Cross, 6th Block, 18th Main, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034. Also at, Mr. S.M. Krishna, S/o. Anjaiah Setty, No.413, Ground Floor, 1st Cross, 7th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. S.M. Krishna, S/o. Anjaiah Setty)

All that piece and parcel of the site bearing K. No. 323/24, Situated at Hulimangla Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Measuring East to West on the Northern Side 43 Feet and on the Southern Side 61 Feet and North to South 40 Feet. Total 2,080 Sq.Ft. and bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : The Property No.25, North by : The Property No.23, South by : Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.42,00,000/-
(Rupees Forty Two Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
06-03-2026	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Koramangala Branch,** 92, Z Square, Ground Floor, Jyothi Nivas College Road, Industrial Layout, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560034. Telephone No.080-25630439, Cell Nos.9342874657, 8925964904.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru - Koramangala Branch, 92, Z Square, Ground Floor, Jyothi Nivas College Road, Industrial Layout, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560034.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-25630439, Cell Nos. 9342874657, 8925964904.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST, if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 13-02-2026 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

IN THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, AT BANGALORE
Case No : O.A. No.1879/2024

Summons under sub-section(4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with Sub - Rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Between : **State Bank of India** ...Applicant
And:
Sri Shyamdev Prasad & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993

To
1. **Mr. Shyamdev Prasad,** S/o. Bramdev Pandit, aged about 33 years, No. 71/23, Sector - 23, Bajghera Shakthi Mandir, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 017.
Also at : ii. Vill-Akbalganj PO Sohsarai, PS Rahui, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda - 803 118.
iii. "Linea Sunflower" Apartment Flat No. D-002, Ground floor, Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore - 560 060.
2. **Sri Chandrashekhar D** S/o. Sri Doddegouda, major, R/o 32/1, 2nd main 2nd Cross, near Satellite Bus Stop, K. B. Nagar, Mysore Road, Bangaluru South, Bengaluru- 560 026.

Whereas, this Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendant(s) you for recovery of a sum **Amount of debt in Rs.1,30,06,811/-** Defendant(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed , in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **30.03.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this the **29.01.2026**

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debt Recovery Tribunal-1

STATE BANK OF INDIA
HOME LOAN CENTRE
HSR LAYOUT, No, 241, 19th Main Road, 4th Sector
HSR Layout, Bengaluru – 560 102, Mob. No : 9972361099
E-mail : racpc.hsr@sbi.co.in / maint.hsr@sbi.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER

UNDER SUB SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED ACT)

At your request, Bank has extended credit facilities to the below mentioned individual against secured assets through its **RACPC HSR LAYOUT** (and account maintained at SBI, Kasavanahalli Branch), mentioned thereon, The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement/documents & creation of mortgage by way deposit of title deeds are furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facilities has become irregular, the debts has been classified as Non-Performing Assets in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice sent by register AD calling upon you, was un-served/not acknowledged, this publication is now issued.

1. Name and address of the Borrower: **1) Mrs. Aparna Poda W/o. Maruthi Rao Kolluri** # 520, Fifth Floor, "Sandeep Square" Boganahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore – 560103. **2) Mrs. Aparna Poda W/o. Maruthi Rao Kolluri**# D – 204, "Kethana Blossoms" Opp Cisco Back Gate, Panthur Main Road, Kadubisanahalli, Bangalore – 560103. **3) Mrs. Aparna Poda W/o. Maruthi Rao Kolluri** Ericsson Global Services Bagmane World Technology Center, Near EMC Square, Mahadevapura, Bangalore - 560048. **4) Mrs. Aparna Poda W/o. Maruthi Rao Kolluri,** T. Agraharam Village, Naguluppalapadu Mandal, Prakasam District Andra Pradesh – 523180.

Outstanding Loan Amount: **Rs. 62,64,367/-** (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred sixty Seven only) as on 10.02.2026 and you are also liable to pay interest from **11.02.2026** at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs etc.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY MORTGAGED: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

Iteam No 1 :- All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy.No.129/4, earlier bearing BBMP Khata No.302, Sy.No.129/4, presently bearing portion of Amalgamated Municipal Khata No.301/ Sy.No.128/19/129/4/128/20, measuring 32 Guntas / 34848 Sq.feet (Converted vide Official Memorandum dated : 06.12.2012 bearing No.ALN(EVH)SR.551/2011-12 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) situated at Boganahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on the : East By :Land bearing Sy.No.129/3; West By : Road & Devarabeesanahalli Village Border; North By :Land bearing Sy.No.129/2; South By :Land bearing Sy.No.128/20;

Iteam No 2 :- All that piece and parcel of the converted land bearing old Sy.No.128/8, presently bearing New Sy.No.128/19, earlier bearing BBMP Khata No.301, Sy.No.128/19, presently bearing portion of Amalgamated Municipal Khata No.301/ Sy.No.128/19/129/4/128/20, measuring 25 Guntas / 27225 Sq.feet (converted vide Official Memorandum Dated : 04.03.2013 bearing No.ALN(EVH)SR.388/2012-13, converted for Industrial (Hi-Tech) purpose issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, later changed for residential purpose vide Change of Land Use Dated :16/11/2013 bearing No.379/2013-14 issued by the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority) situated at Boganahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk and Bounded on the: East By :Land bearing Sy.No.128/ 18; West By :Devarabeesanahalli Village Border & Road; North By :Land bearing Sy.No.128/20; South By :Land bearing Sy.No.128/8;

Iteam No 3 :- All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land property beaering Old Sy.No.128/ 8, Presently bearing New Sy.No.128/20, earlier bearing BBMP Khata No.303, Sy.No.128/20, presently bearing portion of Amalgamated Municipal Khata No.301/Sy.No.128/19/129/4/128/20, measuring 32 Guntas / 34848 Sq.feet (converted vide Official Memorandum dated : 11.12.2012 bearing No.ALN.(EVH)SR.237/2012-13 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District), situated at Boganahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, earlier Bangalore Souty Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded on the : East By : Land bearing Sy.No.128/9; West By :Road & Devarabeesanahalli Village Border; North By :Land bearing Sy.No.129/4; South By : Land bearing Sy.No.128/19;

COMPOSITE SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY: (Comprising of Item Nos. 1,2, & 3 Properties Described above) All that piece and parcel of the converted lands bearing **(a) Sy.No.129/4**, earlier bearing BBMP Khata**No. 302 Sy.No. 129/4, measuring 32 Guntas / 34848 Sq feet** (converted vide Official Memorandum dated : 06.12.2012 bearing **No. ALN.(EVH)SR.551/2011-12** issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), **(b) Old Sy.No. 128/8,** Presently bearing **New Sy.No. 128/19**, earlier bearing **BBMP Khata No.301 Sy.No.128/ 19**, measuring **25 Guntas / 27225 Sq, feet** (converted vide Official Memorandum dated : 04.03.2013 bearing **No. ALN(EVH)SR. 388/2012-13, converted for Industrial (Hi – Tech)** purposes issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, later changed for residential purpose vide Change of Land use dated : 16.11.2013 bearing No.3792/2013-14 issued by the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority and **(c) old Sy.No. 128/8,** Presently bearing **New Sy.No.128/20,** earlier bearing **BBMP Khata No.303 Sy.No.128/ 20, measuring 32 Guntas / 34848 Sq. feet** (converted vide Official Memorandum dated : 11.12.2012 bearing **No.ALN.(EVH)SR.237/2012-13**, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, all **situated at Boganahalli Village, Varthur Hobli,** earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, totally measuring **2 Acres 9 Guntas**, presently bearing amalgamated the Municipal **Khata No. 301 / Sy.No.128/19/ 129/4/128/20** and bounded on :East By :Sy. No.129/3, 128/9 & 128/18; West By : Road &Devarabeesanahalli Village Border; North By :Sy.No. 129/2; South By : Sy.No. 128/8;

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: 531 Sq.ft. undivided right, title and owenership in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' above.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : Flat bearing **No. 520** in **WING – III**, in the **Fifth Floor**, admeasuring **1618 Sq.feet** Super Built up area, containing **Three Bed Rooms**, with **RCC** Roofing, Vitrified Tiles Flooring, Wooden Doors and Windows, together with One Covered Car Parking Space, including proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase and lift, over the Schedule "A" Property known as **"SANDEEP SQUARE".**

Name of the Branch: State Bank of India, Kasavanahalli Branch **Account No: 35530481259**
Date of NPA: 29.08.2025 **Demand Notice Date: 12.02.2026**

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. The Bank reserves its rights to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding Bills Discounted, Bank Guarantees and Letter of Credit issued and established on your behalf as well as other contingent liabilities.

Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act whereunder you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law.

Place:Bengaluru
Date: 12.02.2026

Sd/-Authorised Officer, State Bank of India,
Home Loan Centre, HSR Layout

₹19,675 CR pumped into Indian equities by FPIs in the first fortnight of February, supported by the US-India trade deal and easing global macro concerns

RBI reins in mis-selling, loan recovery agents

Banking regulator asks banks to refund if complaint of mis-selling is proved, avoid selling bundled products

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

MIS-SOLD an insurance policy or mutual fund and recovery agents harassing you? The Reserve Bank has issued guidelines to protect the gullible customers from mis-selling of financial products and reigning in high-handedness of recovery agents for missing an EMI.

If it is proved that the financial product is mis-sold then the RBI has promised full refund. The new draft rules are aimed at improving how banks advertise, market and sell financial products and services. It also bans incentives paid by third parties such as insurers and MF houses to bank employees for selling their products.

RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra has taken two bold steps recently. Last Friday, the central bank issued two record-setting directions, called the Reserve Bank of India (commercial banks--responsible business conduct) amendment directions, 2026, which will come into effect from July 1—to protect customers from pain of mis-selling financial products like insurance, MFs, and credit cards, among others, and asking banks to refund the entire amount if the complaint is proved and preventing them from selling bundled products.

The norms against mis-selling comes as over the past a few years concerns have been raised about customers being pushed into buying insurance, MFs or other third-party products without making them understand fully or in some cases banks are bundling basic banking services with other products.

The other step is to reign in recovery agents with a slew of

measures to help a harried borrower from getting mistreated or harassed for missing a payment, by setting good conduct norms and limiting calling time to normal office working hours.

"It shall be ensured that no incentive is directly/indirectly received by employees engaged in marketing/ sales of third-party products/services from the third-party," the draft norms said.

The draft rules clearly state that a bank can't bundle a third-party product with its own product, and customers must be given option to buy that third-party product from any one. The regulator said a bank should not advertise or market any third-party product or service as its own.

Customers can lodge complaints about mis-selling within 30 days of receiving the signed copy of the terms and conditions if the sector regulator has not already specified a time limit.

This could affect banks, insurers firms and mutual fund houses as banks earn fees by selling these products. Many of these companies depend heavily on banks for distribution.

The new RBI recovery agent norms protect borrowers by banning coercive tactics, abusive language, social media shaming, and calls before or after 8 am to 7 pm, while mandating recorded calls and agent certification. These rules increase transparency, ensure respectful treatment and hold banks liable for agent misconduct.

In the financial sector parlance, mis-selling refers to the unethical or negligent practice of selling financial products or services that are unsuitable for a customer's needs, risk appetite, or financial profile, often through misleading information, non-disclosure of risks, or high-pressure tactics to secure a sale and pocket the commission.

IN CONVERSATION

P R SESHADRI
Managing director & chief executive officer, South Indian Bank

'Our bad assets coming down sequentially, we've lowest fresh slippages'

SOUTH Indian Bank has been growing considerably with the asset quality woes well-contained for the past many quarters under chief executive **PR Seshadri** who's been at the helm of the bank since October 2023. In an interaction with **Benn Kochuveedan**, Seshadri tells during the nine months to December, the Thrissur-based lender has seen net income crossing the ₹1,000 crore mark for the first time, and Q3 net income clipping at 9% to ₹374 crore on the back of the lowest NPA ratios in decades and robust credit growth, underpinning the strong business performance in recent years. Edited excerpts:

Yours is among the very few private sector lenders which could grow the low-cost CASA book in Q3. How could you manage that given record low interest rates that has led to flight of deposits out of banks to other better yielding asset classes... Are they driven by NRI deposits?
First of all, our customers have rewarded us by continuing with us and continuing to show their trust in us. We've a robust deposit franchise, and our engagement with customers has been increasing steadily over the years wherein or focus has been on institutional accounts and on those customers who've large current account requirements. Of course, NRI deposits have helped us, but majority of the CASA growth was from domestic deposits. Our CASA book has grown by 15 %, while current account balances have grown 20%.

Our retail deposit grew 13% to ₹1,15,563 crore, NRI deposits grew 15% to ₹33,965 crore and CASA grew 15%, of which savings deposits grew 14%. Apart from technology, we're doing a lot of work at the branch level to enhance and improve customer engagement. Most importantly, we're very lucky to have reasonably loyal customers.

Gold loans
Gold loans constitute a major portion of our assets as it is a tad over 22% of total assets but I think there is still some room for it to grow as we keep a tight watch on price volatility. Our assets growth is coming from other sources as well

Your bad loan piles are still higher than the system-wide average. Of course, there is an improvement... where is the stress coming in from or are these from ageing assets?
Yes, old assets, because we're a bit slow to start the balance sheet clean-up compared to other banks. As a consequence, our gross NPAs are higher than many other banks but our net NPAs are in the same range at 45 bps and it's been coming down sequentially. On annnualised basis, net NPAs fell 80 bps in Q3 from 1.25% and gross NPAs came down by 163 bps to 2.67% from 4.30%. And these are all historical NPAs that are slowly being pushed out.

But if you look at fresh slippages, we've the lowest fresh slippages, which printed in at low 16 bps in Q3. If we annualise it, it gets to 64 bps. I don't know if there are any other banks that are in the same ballpark. In the past quarter, our fresh slippages were at 20 bps and in the quarter before at 24 bps and now it's 16 bps. And we are quite happy at 16 bps and it's not a bad number.

Do you expect this downward trend to continue in Q4 as well or are there some new pain areas? What is your guidance for the fourth quarter?
I think we should be ball-parked in the same neighbourhood. We may not repeat the 16 bps. We've been at the 20 bps level for for three quarters now and we expect the same to continue. We don't have any visibility that is different at this point in time. So, we think that this trend line should hold. In fact, we don't really have a target for gross and net NPAs as we target slippages. Of the NPAs of ₹155 crore, ₹106 crore are from the personal segment- credit cards, personal and housing loans, and ₹34 crore are from business loans, mostly MSMEs and only ₹15 crore are from agriculture.

Your gold loan book has been growing very fast. Is there a concentration risk there?
Currently gold loans constitute a substantial portion of our assets as it is a tad over 22% of the total assets but I think there is still some room for it to grow as we keep a tight watch on price volatility. But our assets growth is coming from other sources as well.

MONEY-WISE

MULTI-CAP FUNDS: A SLICE OF EVERY CAKE

FINANCIAL ADVICE
ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

MULTI-CAP funds came into existence post a debate whether the funds, now classified as flexi-cap funds were really true to label. They are equity mutual funds that do not focus on a particular capitalization category of companies but invest across multiple sectors and capitalisations.

While the fund managers have the freedom to invest across different market capitalizations, in September 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised its earlier norms and asked the fund houses to invest a minimum of 25% each in large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks in their respective multi cap schemes. The remaining portion can be invested across market-caps or in debt and money market instruments.This makes them more diverse providing balanced exposure when compared to other traditional equity mutual fund schemes like Large or Mid-cap funds.

Before this announcement, the fund managers in this category were free to choose stocks across market-capitalisations with no upper or lower threshold. There was thus no minimum or maximum restriction on how much they were investing in large, mid, or small-cap companies. While multi-cap funds can potentially outperform large-cap and mid-cap funds when the markets are on the ascent, they remain subject to market volatility because, at any given point, they must have 50 % exposure to mid-cap and small-cap stocks.

Multi-cap funds thus offer flexibility to the fund manager to switch between stocks and accord additional or lesser weightage to stocks of a particular market capitalisation depending on the fund manager's reading of the market trend, in order to achieve higher returns. Like every equity category fund, multi-cap funds too have long-term investment horizon and tend to accentuate risk if invested for short time frames, given that market volatility has greater impact in the near term.

Taxation of multi-cap funds are no different from any other equity mutual fund. If one sells their investments within one year, the gains are classified as Short Term Capital Gain (STCG) and 20% tax is payable. Whereas, for any multi cap investment held for more than one year, the gains are classified as Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG). Such gains of up to ₹1.25 lakh in a financial year are tax free. Beyond that threshold, LTCG is taxed at the rate of 12.5%.

The primary feature and advantage of investing in multi cap funds is diversification. Multi cap funds and Flexi cap funds are two variants of an equity fund that invest across market capitalizations. Of the two, multi-cap is perceived (not necessarily rightly) to be relatively safer as the market cap segregation is already provided by SEBI, while, in a flexi-cap fund the fund manager has the freedom to invest in any proportion across different market capitalisations.

More importantly, while investing in MFs investors must not only focus on increasing returns but also on reducing risks which are inherent in any investment where the underlying asset class is equity.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO STOP MIS-SELLING OF FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE
RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

BANKING has moved from physical branches to the palm of your hand. With voluminous data analytics and the latest technology to mine that information, you are inundated with automated messages and calls. In the latest conference call with analysts, Bajaj Finance's management provided a detailed analysis of how the company is using AI to boost credit growth.

In the quarter gone by, Bajaj Finance reported loan disbursements of ₹1,600 crore, or nearly 10% of total loan disbursements, through AI-powered call centres. This is a significant boost to future profit prospects, as the company spends less on average customer acquisition or loan costs. The company promises to up the game. The stock market loved the idea. Bajaj Finance shares jumped last Friday, even as overall market sentiment was negative. Bajaj Finance is not alone. Every other bank and non-banking finance company that sells loans and financial products to you is likely to use Artificial Intelligence tools for outreach.

The outcome of all that would be a surge in dark patterns. The Reserve Bank of India issued a detailed notification last week for banks and non-banks to follow to curb the mis-selling of financial products. The notification lists about 11 dark patterns or ways of mis-selling. "Deceptive design choices intended to trick you into buying products you do not need or entice you to share data that you would rather keep private," the RBI notification explains.

If you have felt nudged into taking a high-interest loan or found it impossible to cancel a subscription payment, these rules are your shield, the RBI stated. You can lodge a complaint within a stipulated time after the purchase, even if you feel someone hurried you into buying any financial product. That feeling of being hurried could intensify as artificial intelligence voice bots or advisors play a bigger role in reaching out to you. The conversations you may have would be relentless and devoid of any emotion. It would be a challenge to deal with them without getting upset. However, it is important to come to terms with the reality of the new world. Technology advances are shifting business processes much faster than we think. The good side to it is that there would be a trail of every such interaction that will help you build your case of mis-selling. Your record-keeping will matter going forward. You may want to save every interaction while buying or investing in any financial product.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

What does it mean to you

This column has always stood for knowledge as a weapon against fraud, mis-selling, and financial loss. Financial market regulators may launch awareness campaigns and hold public events to help you learn. However, your willingness to learn will make all the difference. You have to invest in your knowledge, and effectively, your well-being. You need professional help to understand financial products and an appropriate asset allocation. Many of you get unnerved by complex financial terms, and it is tough to understand the regulatory language intended to protect you. In such a situation, you need to read up on information from multiple resources.

For simple financial concepts, the AI-led tools help. In fact, if you have a wealth manager or a financial advisor, you can make that interaction meaningful by preparing for the meeting. Over time, either your financial advisor could deploy an AI model to discuss your money with you, or you may simply use an independent tool online. In the future, these tools could get smarter and more efficient in providing appropriate advice as they gather more information about your preferences and risk appetite. You may have noticed that 'prompting' AI tools has emerged as a skill. If you pose the right questions, you will get relevant and effective responses.

Religare Ent to demerge financial, insurance biz

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BURMAN family backed-Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) has approved a plan to demerge its financial services and insurance businesses into two separately listed entities.

This is the first major restructuring announced by the company since Burmans took over REL in Feb 2025. REL will retain its stake in Care Health Insurance Ltd, which will continue as an insurance-focused entity, he financial services firm said in a statement.

The financial services business - comprising lending, broking, investment activities and related support services - will be transferred on a going-concern basis to its subsidiary Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL), it said. RFL will issue fully paid-up equity shares to shareholders of REL on a 1:1 mirror basis. Post-demerger, RFL will be listed on BSE and NSE with mirror image shareholding as REL.

The company said the restructuring is aimed at streamlining operations by creating two independent entities, allowing each business to pursue sector-specific growth strategies and opportunities, it said.

The transaction will be implemented through a scheme of arrangement to be filed with the National Company Law Tribunal and is subject to statutory and regulatory approvals, including those from shareholders and creditors, it said.

'Have not revised third-party insurance premium for 4 yrs'

SANAL SUDEVAN @ Chennai

JAIPUR-based Shriram General Insurance has not revised its third-party premium for the last four years, in fact pricing and insured-declared value (IDV) have been reduced because of GST cuts on motor vehicles, said the company's MD and CEO Anil Kumar Aggarwal.

He said, "In the third-party premium, there has been no revision in pricing for the past four years. I can say pricing has gone down because the GST has been rationalised and also IDV has been reduced," adding that the company's insurance policies' volume has gone up because following the GST cut vehicle vendors were giving discounts and GST reliefs.

I can say pricing has gone down because the GST has been rationalised and also IDV has been reduced
Anil Kumar Aggarwal, Shriram Gen Insurance

"This has further cut down the sale value of vehicles."

Shriram Group's subsidiary saw a growth of 26% YoY in net profit from ₹131 crore in Q3FY25 to ₹165 crore in Q3FY26. The company onboarded 4,780 financial advisers in Q3FY26, taking total strength to 1,01,474. In the nine-month period till December 2025, the company onboarded 14,262 new financial advisers. The company's active policies rose to 69 lakh as of December 2025 from 64 lakh during the same period last year.

Aggarwal said the company reported a growth 19% against industry growth of 11.49%, growing close to 2 times the industry performance. On a cumulative basis till Q3FY26, SGI's GDP grew 24% YoY to ₹3,304 crore, up from ₹2,654 crore in the corresponding period last year, which is 2.8 times over the industry growth of 9%.

Corporate gatherings
Well-known names who are expected to participate in the 5-day event include Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, among others

Narendra Modi to inaugurate India AI Impact Summit today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the India AI Impact Expo 2026 on February 16, 2026 at 5 pm at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The Expo, slated to be one of the largest AI gatherings in the world, will be held from February 16-20, 2026 alongside the India AI Impact Summit, also at Bharat Mandapam. The event will serve as a national demonstration of AI in action—where policy meets practice, innovation meets scale, and technology reaches the everyday citizen.

Spread across 10 arenas covering more than 70,000 square metres, the Expo will bring together global technology firms, start-ups, academic and research institutions, Union Ministries, State Governments, and international partners. It will feature 13 country pavilions showcasing international collaboration in the AI ecosystem, including participation from Australia, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Serbia, Estonia, Tajikistan, and Africa.

India's Kuldeep Yadav (C) celebrates after dismissing Pakistan's Mohammad Nawaz; The win on Sunday helped defending champions secure Super Eights berth | PTI

INDIA SHOW NO MERCY

Much-anticipated contest turns out to be a one-sided affair again as holders crush Pakistan

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Colombo

AND, so, on the ninth day and after 26 matches, the World Cup's big match — world cricket's big match not for entertainment or action but purely for the toxicity this game seems to generate these days — arrived at a suitably decked up but neutral R Premadasa Stadium. The thousands who had made their way past the turnstiles had begun queueing up a good four hours before the first ball was going to be bowled.

After more than a month of boycott talk, intense back-channel lobbying and a last-minute U-turn by the government of Pakistan, both captains came out for the toss. When it finally happened shortly after 7.00 PM local time on a relatively breezy Colombo evening, world cricket finally breathed a sigh of relief after holding it in for 2026. Sweet release.

One over in, Indian fans — the thousands inside and hundreds of millions in India and elsewhere — may have forgotten the simple task of inhaling and exhaling. Abhishek Sharma, one of their biggest match-winners in this format, went back without scoring. Coming into the side after battling stomach infection for the last week, the southpaw found mid-on with a nothing shot off Salman Agha.

IND VS PAK

BRIEF SCORES: India 175/7 in 20 ovs (Ishan 77, Suryakumar 32, Dube 27; Ayub 3/25) **bt** Pakistan 114 in 18 ovs (Usman 44, Shaheen 23; Pandya 2/16).

This track had promised plenty for spinners and it was living up to his billing two minutes into the game. This was also a significant moment for Agha & Co because this gave them a way into the contest early doors. After losing each of their last five matches in this format against India, they desperately wanted something, anything, to reverse that trend.

Alas, it was the high point of the match from their perspective. For over the next three hours, India were largely irrepressible, like attack dogs off their leash. Right from Ishan Kishan's counter for ages to their spinners' chokehold to kill the game via Hardik Pandya's wicket-maiden to open the run-chase, this was the perfect T20 match from their perspective.

This batting unit, ever since Suryakumar Yadav stepped in as skipper, have been given the license and the freedom — a word he used in the pre-match press conference — to thrill. There's freedom to be expressive, hedonistic without the consequences of failure. You can draw a direct line between those ethos of this team management and Kishan's violent assault on the Pakistan spinners. Off his 77, 66 came off 37 against their spin, a negative match-up for him. Even though all the pre-match build-up was focussing on their spinners, Kishan made it into a non-event. Thanks for coming, now close the door behind you and go home.

Even if some of the others struggled — Suryakumar and Tilak Varma combined for 57 off 53 as the slightly older ball was holding and gripping — Shivam Dube and Rinku Singh did enough damage in the back end to take the total to a match-winning one. Pakistan could have requested the ICC to have their greatest T20 team but even they wouldn't have managed to score 176 on this surface against India's spin troika of Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy. That really is why they are on course to become the first team to defend the T20 World Cup. This is a side that's so ridiculously balanced and talented the opposition needs to have all the luck in the world to even be competitive in this format.Both the batting and bowling units are forged in fire. If the top eight are generally an unstoppable force, their primary bowlers and all-rounders are the immovable object.

How else would you explain the fact that when the opposition were 4/47 after seven overs, the skipper had to bring on Kuldeep. In other teams, the left-arm wristy would be the bowling attack's primary wicket-taker.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

WHERE THE TIE WAS WON

DEFENDING CHAMPS PUT UP A CLINICAL DISPLAY. A LOOK AT THE KEY MOMENTS...

Kishan's onslaught

If Abhishek doesn't get you, Ishan Kishan will. Strike that. That has been the theme since his comeback. Kishan hit a 40-ball 77 to set the tone on a surface that condusive for the spinners.

• • •

Dube, Rinku cameos

At one point, it seemed like Pakistan could keep India to 160. However, Shivam Dube (17-ball 27) and Rinku Singh (11 n.o off 4) delivered at the death as India hit 35 runs in the last three overs.

• • •

Deadly Bumrah

Bumrah stepped up as always. Taking the new ball, he struck twice in the second over and all but killed the tie. From thereon, Pakistan had to play catch-up.

Tight security, loud fans bring city to a standstill

SWAROOP SWAMANATHAN @ Colombo

AT about 3.00 PM, when the media bus came to a momentary halt at the Khettarama Temple Road, one of the main arterial roads leading to the R Premadasa Stadium, it was clear that the India-Pakistan game was going to be full of colour, vibrancy and noise.

With the gates thrown open for the game with more than three-and-a-half hours to go for the World Cup's marquee group stage clash, the crowd — most from India and several from Pakistan — wanted to get in as early as possible. Because of the additional security checks in place — the media accreditation cards had to carry a 'security checked' clearance before being let in — thousands had begun queueing up in front of the Stadium gates a good four hours before the game.

There were bomb disposal units outside the gate. There was a K9 dog, a Labrador, patrolling inside. Bags were scrutinised and anything objectionable was removed. A scribe lost a few cigarette packets. Another had to take out the apple laptop from their bag. It was going to be that kind of a day.

A lot of Indian fans had scrambled for last minute flight journeys so it wasn't a surprise to see them find their voice but there were enough Pakistan fans to ensure the Indian fans wouldn't have it all their way in the stands when they begin chanting their songs later in the evening, closer to match time. After more than a month of intense drama and almost two weeks of 'will they, won't they' political shenanigans, it was wonderful to see fans from both sides of the border peacefully coexisting, being respectful of each other, exchanging smiles and greetings.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Demol-Ishan job by opener

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Colombo

WHAT Rohit Sharma was doing in the last few ICC events, Ishan Kishan is doing at this event. Keep hitting. If it's small, round and white and coming towards your general direction, just hit. It doesn't matter if it's not in your swinging arc because that's literally your only job when you are batting.

Hit.

On Sunday, he didn't care. Even when he was receiving treatment on his back side, he was eager to just get on with the game, worried that if he stopped, he would lose rhythm. He needn't have worried. He wasn't going to lose it. Not on his night of nights.

He despatched them for sixes, he late cut Abrar Ahmed — one of Pakistan's biggest threats coming into the game — for a four with touch that didn't belong in this world. Few balls later, he sent him over cover.

He welcomed Shaheen Shah Afridi with a six, pulled mercilessly into the first tier. Ahmed's first ball, drifting into the pads, was swept for six behind square. He was in that kind of mood that when he leathered one right into Tilak Varma's thigh region, Kishan didn't really bother apologising. "Damn, that's a four I have missed out on," or something like that was what he must have muttered. Sorry, Varma, but this can be a harsh sport.

On Saturday, Agha said their 'trump card' was Usman Tariq. But Kishan's whirlwind 40-ball 77 ensured the Men In Blue were way ahead of the eight ball even before Tariq had come into the attack. Kishan hadn't just changed the rules of this Group A encounter, he hid it, threw the keys away and changed the goalposts.

It has to be said that there was an element of the opposition feeding him 'hit-me balls' once every minute. He's destructive on the leg side but has shown a propensity to struggle if it's on top of off or wide outside off — something that former Indian cricket analyst, Himanish Gangjoo, had posted on X. But the spinners and the lone pacer, Afridi, seem to have gotten carried away because of the occasion. There were a lot of balls right in his wheelhouse and they kept disappearing into all parts of the vast Stadium.

Two things sent the keeper-batter's great innings into ludicrous territory. There was enough spin and purchase of the surface to create a lot of doubt in the batters' minds but he took the conditions out of the equation as he had married clarity of thought with shot execution. The leg side was going to be his friend and 52 out of his 77 runs came on that side (68 per cent).

The other thing about the 27-year-old is he hasn't changed his methods since earning a last-minute recall at the expense of Shubman Gill. This — powerplay basher, take the game head-on and ultra role clarity -- was what put him back in the minds of the selectors when the World Cup was round the corner. At the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, he struck at 197.3 as he led Jharkhand to victory in the game's shortest format. When he was denied a central contract by the previous regime on disciplinary grounds, he must have felt that the wall was closing. He didn't have many friends within the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and it was hard to see a way back for him. **Full story: newindianexpress.com**

Sanjay & Monank shine in USA's 31-run victory

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

HALF-CENTURIES by Monank Patel (52) and Sanjay Krishnamurthi (68 n.o) helped USA beat Namibia by 31 runs here.

Batting first, USA posted 199/4 before restricting Namibia to 168/6 despite a good start from Louren Steenkamp (58) and Jan Frylincyk (19). After the powerplay, they caved into the pressure as the asking rate went up. Earlier, Monank, who was dropped on 0, made good use of the chance to make 52. He used his feet well and chose the right ball to attack. Monank and Shayan Jahangir set the tone with a 68-run opening stand in 41 balls. Patel also became the first US batter to notch 1000 runs in T20Is during his half-century. Leg-spinner Willem Myburgh stalled the USA march by dismissing the openers. The in-form Saiteja Mukkamalla fell to Gerhard Erasmus, but soon the USA middle-order picked up steam. Krishnamurthi and Milind Kumar (28) combined to raise 87 runs in 47 balls for the fourth-wicket stand, setting up USA's big total.

USA VS NAM

BRIEF SCORES: USA 199/4 in 20 ovs (M Patel 52, S Krishnamurthi 68 n.o; W Myburgh 2/22) **bt** Namibia 168/6 in 20 ovs (L Steenkamp 58; Van Schalkwyk 2/30).

USA players celebrate a wicket during their tie against Namibia | ASHWIN PRASATH

INTRIGUING CONTEST ON CARDS

Co-hosts eye Super Eights

Given that they have to take on in-form Zimbabwe in the last group match, Sri Lanka would want to beat Australia and lock their place in the Super Eights. However, Aussies will be determined to bounce back after their loss against Zimbabwe.

Aussies on the brink

Australia will stay alive even if they lose but they will have to depend on other teams to make it to Super 8s. Life will become easy for the 2021 champs if they win as Oman will be their opponents in the last group match.

Australia vs Sri Lanka @ Pallekele | 7PM

Other matches

Afghanistan vs UAE @ New Delhi | 11AM

England vs Italy @ Kolkata | 3PM

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOHOTSTAR

Windies book Super Eights berth

MUMBAI: The West Indies became the first team to qualify for the Super Eights phase of the T20 World Cup when they cruised to victory against Nepal by nine wickets on Sunday. After restricting Nepal to 133-8 in their 20 overs, captain Shai Hope's 61 not out helped his team romp to 134-1 in 15.2 overs in the Group C clash at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium. Hope reached his fifty off 38 balls and scored three sixes and five fours in all.

WI VS NEP

BRIEF SCORES: Nepal 133/8 in 20 ovs (Dipendra 58, Sompal 26 n.o; Holder 4/27) **lost to** WI 134/1 in 15.2 ovs (Hope 61 n.o, Hetmyer 46 n.o).

Shai Hope in action | AFP

EXPRESS READ

Salah ends drought to inspire Liverpool

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah struck as Liverpool cruised into the FA Cup fifth round with a 3-0 win over Brighton on Saturday. Curtis Jones scored the opener before Dominik Szoboszlai, after Salah's cushioned pass, doubled the lead. Salah then converted a penalty to seal win. On Sunday, Arsenal also advanced after crushing Wigan Athletic 4-0.

WTT: Desai-Ghorpade finish runners-up

CHENNAI: India's Harmeet Desai and Yashaswini Ghorpade finished runners-up in mixed doubles after they lost to Romanian second seeds Eduard Ionescu and Bernadette Szocs in the final in the WTT Star Contender Chennai here. Desai and Ghorpade lost 0-3 (9-11, 2-11, 8-11) to mark the best finish for an Indian pairing in the event.

ISL: Bengaluru FC and Jamshedpur win

BENGALURU: N Sivasakthi and Sunil Chhetri scored in each half as Bengaluru FC started their ISL season with a 2-0 win over Sporting Club Delhi here on Sunday. In the other match, Jamshedpur FC posted a 1-0 victory over Mohammedan SC at Jamshedpur.

Argentina outclass India 4-2 in FIH Pro League

ROURKELA: India produced another listless display as they slumped to a 2-4 defeat against Argentina in the final match of the Rourkela leg of the FIH Pro League here. Tadeo Marcucci (28', 49') led the Argentinian attack with a brace, while Tomas Domene (18') and Lucio Mendez (43') made vital contributions.

Maiden title for Ferreira Silva

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

FREDERICO Ferreira Silva of Portugal won the Chennai Open ATP Challenger after a nail-biting three-set victory — 6-4, 6-7 (10), 6-4 — over second seed Federico Agustin Gomez of Argentina in the singles final here on Sunday.

After the players exchanged early breaks in the opening essay, the left-handed Ferreira Silva, who was the No. 6 seed, struck the decisive blow in the ninth game and then held serve to clinch the set 6-4 at the SDAT Tennis Stadium.

Rahul & Padikkal tons power K'taka on Day 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KL RAHUL scored his second successive ton (141) while captain Devdutt Padikkal slammed unbeaten 148 to put Karnataka in a dominant position against Uttarakhand in their Ranji Trophy semifinal clash in Lucknow on Sunday.

After being asked to bat first, Karnataka were one down in as early as the ninth over after Mayank Agarwal was sent back by teenager Aditya Rawat. However, Rahultook charge alongside Padikkal to lay the platform for Karnataka. The duo put on a partnership of 278 for the second wicket.

Sudip stands tall

Sudip Kumar Gharami's unconquered 136 helped Bengal post 249/5 against Jammu & Kashmir in the other semifinal at Kalyani.

BRIEF SCORES: Karnataka 355/2 in 90 ovs (Padikkal 148 n.o, Rahul 141, Nair 37 n.o; Rawat 2/73) **vs** Uttarakhand. Bengal 249/5 in 79.5 ovs (Sudip 136 n.o, Easwaran 49; Sunil 2/31, Auqib 2/48) **vs** J & K.

India beat Oz in rain-hit T20I

AGENCIES @ Sydney

INDIA beat Australia by nine wickets under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the first Women's T20I here.

Arundhati Reddy (4/22) led an excellent bowling display as India packed off Australia for 133. In reply, Smriti Mandhana was unbeaten on a 17-ball 16 with Jemimah Rodrigues giving her company, when the heavens opened up. Play could not resume after that and India, who were 50 for one in 5.1 overs, were declared deserving winners.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
16.02.2026

EDUCATION EXPRESS
edex YOUR LIFE COACH

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

CBSE BOARD EXAMS
Date: February 17

RRB JE
Date: February 19-20

JKSSB JUNIOR ASSISTANT
Date: February 22

14

edexLIVE.com | newindianexpress.com

How a mid-century thought experiment became the foundation of modern computing

AI through the ages

1950: Turing Test proposed

Alan Turing reframes intelligence as observable behaviour, asking whether machines can convincingly imitate human thought.

1956: Dartmouth Conference

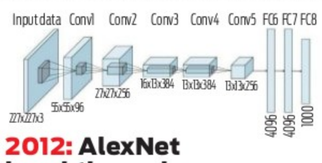
Researchers formally coin "Artificial Intelligence," establishing AI as a scientific discipline and launching organised research efforts.

1986: Backpropagation revival

The backpropagation algorithm enables multi-layer neural networks to learn efficiently, setting the stage for deep learning advances.

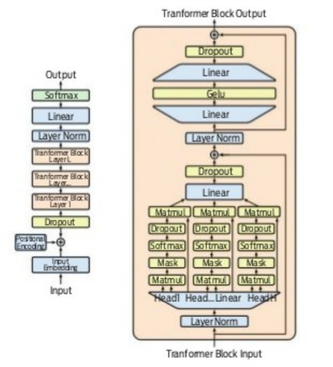
1997: Deep Blue defeats Kasparov

IBM's Deep Blue defeats world chess champion Garry Kasparov, demonstrating machine superiority in complex, rule-bound tasks.



2012: AlexNet breakthrough

A deep neural network wins the ImageNet competition, dramatically improving image recognition and triggering the modern AI resurgence.

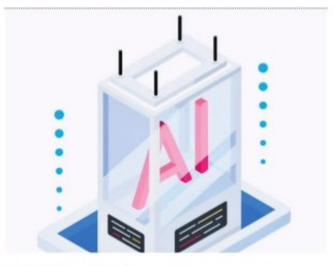


2017: Transformer architecture introduced

The "Attention Is All You Need" paper introduces transformers, enabling scalable language models and reshaping AI development.

2022: ChatGPT goes mainstream

OpenAI's ChatGPT brings generative AI to the public, accelerating real-world adoption across education, business, and daily work.



2024–26: AI as infrastructure

AI becomes embedded in healthcare, education, governance, and enterprise systems, turning into foundational infrastructure.

ALL CHIPS ON THE TABLE

CAN INDIA LEAD IN AI?

While the world measures AI power through massive models and vast GPU clusters, India's route runs through app strength, careful engineering, and a growing appetite for purposeful AI

NIKHIL ABHISHEK

EVERY few months, a new global model launch resets the scoreboard. The phrase "AI race" gets thrown around to describe everything from chip manufacturing to chatbot popularity, often without a clear sense of what is actually being measured. If the race is about building frontier-scale models that sit in the same league as ChatGPT or DeepSeek, the contest today is dominated by the United States and China, backed by vast compute budgets and tightly integrated research ecosystems. Look a little closer, however, and the picture becomes more layered, and India's position more diffuse.

The AI landscape can be divided into at least four distinct arenas. There is the frontier model layer, where a handful of laboratories train enormous systems on thousands of GPUs. There is the compute infrastructure layer, which decides who can afford to experiment at that scale. There is the research talent layer, which produces new algorithms and architectures. Finally, there is the adoption layer, in which governments, companies, and professionals actually use these systems in their work.

"I do not think 'AI race' is being applied to real-world adoption as much as to foundational models or talent depth," says Balaraman Ravindran, who heads data and AI research initiatives at IIT Madras, including the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. "If AI adoption is the metric then India's position is not that bad. But we are not yet at a point where we are competing in the true frontier model space." The reason lies partly in who does what. India has a large pool of AI engineers who can build applications using existing models and platforms, and they work across global technology firms and startups. The research base that produces new methods is much smaller. "India does not produce a lot of AI researchers, yet," he points out. "For true fundamental breakthroughs, you need more researchers, who also have the ability to build tools."

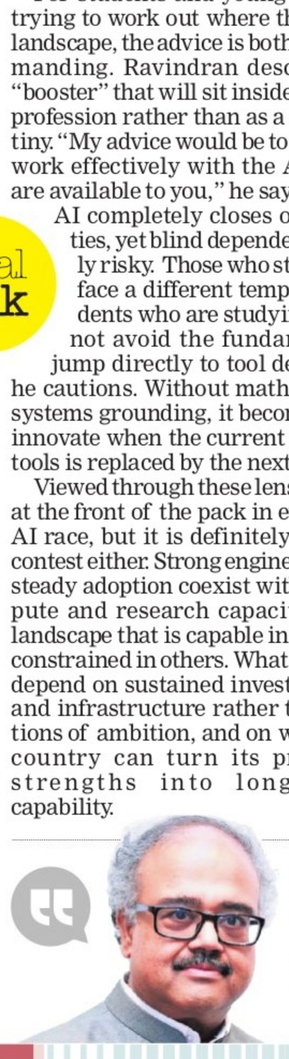
real talk

Underneath that talent gap sits a more material barrier. Training and experimenting with large models requires access to high-end compute that is expensive and unevenly distributed. When asked whether compute is India's biggest structural bottleneck, Ravindran is blunt. "In short, yes," he says. He is quick to add that hardware alone cannot carry a country forward. Making racks of GPUs available without also investing in training, research ecosystems, venture capital, and adoption pathways will not change much. Yet the lack of affordable, sustained access to compute slows Indian researchers in ways that are easy to underestimate. When a single training run consumes weeks instead of hours, iteration suffers, and so does ambition.

Within these constraints, rather than chasing a single gigantic model that aims to serve every use case, some Indian teams are working on smaller systems trained for specific domains or languages. He describes these as "right-sized" models that are tuned for scale and cost in an Indian context. "They are not available off-the-shelf, and significant R&D has to be carried out to establish leadership in that space," he notes, however. The hope is that models designed for Indian languages and infrastructure realities can be deployed widely, including in settings where global models are either too expensive or poorly aligned.

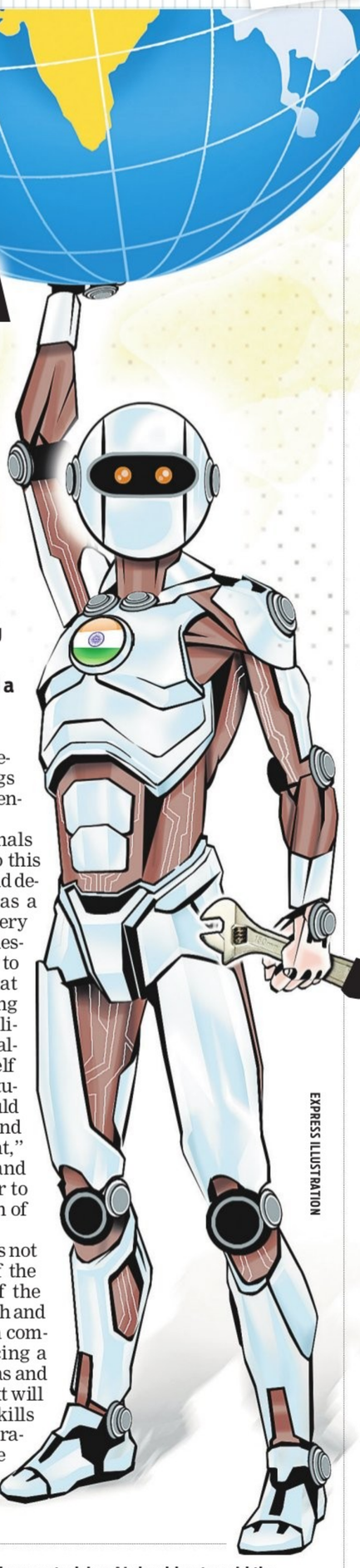
For students and young professionals trying to work out where they fit into this landscape, the advice is both simple and demanding. Ravindran describes AI as a "booster" that will sit inside almost every profession rather than as a separate destiny. "My advice would be to learn how to work effectively with the AI tools that are available to you," he says. Shunning AI completely closes off possibilities, yet blind dependence is equally risky. Those who study AI itself face a different temptation. "Students who are studying AI should not avoid the fundamentals and jump directly to tool development," he cautions. Without mathematical and systems grounding, it becomes harder to innovate when the current generation of tools is replaced by the next one.

Viewed through these lenses, India is not at the front of the pack in every leg of the AI race, but it is definitely not out of the contest either. Strong engineering depth and steady adoption coexist with limits in compute and research capacity, producing a landscape that is capable in some areas and constrained in others. What comes next will depend on sustained investment in skills and infrastructure rather than declarations of ambition, and on whether the country can turn its practical strengths into long-term capability.



Students who are studying AI should not avoid the fundamentals and jump directly to tool development; in the long-run, it will limit your ability to innovate

— Balaraman Ravindran,
Head of DSAI, WSAI, RBCDSAI, IIT Madras



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Building India's Brain

KARTHIKEYA S EXAMINES WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO DEVELOP SOVEREIGN AI MODELS IN INDIA, AND THE STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES INVOLVED

RECENTLY, Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam AI announced that its latest models, Sarvam Vision and Bulbul V3, outperformed large language models such as ChatGPT and Gemini on parameters specific to Indian contexts. The claim underscores a broader ambition: AI sovereignty.

Policy initiatives like the IndiaAI Mission have further strengthened India's push in the global AI landscape. However, rather than a single dominant model, India's response to ChatGPT may emerge as a distributed ecosystem.

Sarvam is building multilingual foundation models tailored to Indian use cases. Krutrim is developing conversational and agentic AI systems. Enterprise-focused platforms such as CoRover.ai's BharatGPT are being deployed in customer service and public-sector applications. At the policy level, Bhashini seeks to strengthen digital public infrastructure across India's 22 scheduled languages.

THE ROAD TO AN INDIAN AI

A sovereign AI stack would need to reflect India's linguistic and cultural diversity, operate at population scale, and be developed with strategic control over key infrastructure.

This would require:

- High-quality training datasets reflecting India's social and regional diversity
- Access to advanced compute infrastructure, including GPU capacity
- Robust language corpora across multiple Indian languages and dialects
- A skilled workforce spanning model development, MLOps, and data engineering
- Clear regulatory frameworks governing data use and deployment

While initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission and recent budget allocations for AI skilling and R&D address some of these needs, structural gaps remain.

India has limited domestic semiconductor manufacturing capacity. Datasets are often fragmented across states and sectors. Regulatory clarity around emerging AI applications is still evolving. There is also a shortage of researchers capable of building frontier-scale models.

If India aims to move from deploying AI tools to developing foundational systems, long-term investments in compute infrastructure, research ecosystems, and public-private collaboration will be essential.

Get AI Savvy

Ten no-cost courses that help students build AI literacy, coding base, and advanced ML skills

AI is no longer a niche skill. Several leading univs and global technology organisations offer free courses that let students learn at their own pace. Here are 12 such options:

Introduction to Generative AI — Google Cloud Skills Boost

Explains how generative AI models work, including large language models and prompt design. Ideal for beginners seeking conceptual clarity before exploring tools or coding.

AI for Beginners / Generative AI Learning Path — Microsoft Learn

Introduces core AI concepts, machine learning basics, and practical generative AI use cases. Includes guided modules and hands-on exercises within Microsoft's AI ecosystem.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence — IBM via Coursera

Covers key AI concepts, applications, and industry use cases. Useful for understanding how AI technologies are deployed across sectors.

Elements of AI — University of Helsinki

Designed for non-technical learners, this course explains how AI works, where it is applied, and its societal impact. No coding background required.

AI Courses — IIT Madras via SWAYAM Plus

Open to learners from diverse backgrounds. Provides foundations in AI and machine learning, including Python-based applications.

YUVAi: AI for All — IndiaAI / Government of India

Introduces AI fundamentals, applications, and career pathways. Aimed at building foundational AI awareness among young learners.

CS50's Introduction to AI with Python — Harvard University

Explores core AI concepts, neural networks, machine learning, and Python programming. Suitable for students seeking technical depth.

Artificial Intelligence (OpenCourseWare) — MIT

Provides access to lecture videos, assignments, and advanced AI course materials. Ideal for academically inclined learners seeking rigour.

Introduction to Robotics / Machine Learning — Stanford University

Covers machine learning algorithms, systems thinking, and applied AI principles. Strong foundation for students pursuing AI research or development.

AI and Machine Learning Courses — edX

Offers access to AI courses from leading universities including Harvard, MIT, and the University of California.

***Note:** Course content is free. Some platforms may charge for certification.*

ARE WE THERE YET?

How five influential visions imagined our present, and how today's AI landscape compares with those expectations

Prediction	Reality
In 1993, writer and mathematician Vernor Vinge said greater-than-human intelligence could emerge within thirty years, placing a technological Singularity somewhere around 2023. A decisive break with human limits.	Today, machines beat us at chess, image recognition, and protein modelling, and large models write code and essays. Yet there is still no confirmed general intelligence, only specialised tools.
Futurist Ray Kurzweil has repeated one date for decades: 2029, the year he expects human-level artificial intelligence to arrive. He treats that year as an engineering target rather than a distant dream.	Large language models can draft essays, pass exams, and help debug code. Researchers still argue whether this behaviour counts as human-level understanding or only sophisticated pattern matching.
The Terminator, released in 1984, pictured 2029 as an age of machine war, with a self-aware defence system directing armies of autonomous robots against humanity.	By 2025, AI helps with logistics, image analysis, and drone guidance in several militaries. No system is self-aware or in overall command of global defence networks.
Johnny Mnemonic imagined 2021 as a world where couriers carried encrypted corporate data inside brain implants, turning the human nervous system into a storage and transport medium.	Today, neural implants exist mostly in medical trials, restoring movement or vision. Everyday data still travels through phones, laptops, and cloud servers, not through surgically modified skulls.
In 1998, roboticist Hans Moravec projected that computers powerful enough for humanlike household robots would arrive in the 2020s, bringing broadly capable mechanical helpers into ordinary homes.	We have robot vacuum cleaners, warehouse robots, and smart speakers in many households. Experimental humanoid robots exist, but general-purpose home helpers remain rare, expensive, and mainly in laboratories.

BEYOND CHATTING WITH GPTS

Most prominent AI use cases across key sectors

Artificial Intelligence has moved well beyond conversational tools. Today, AI and Machine Learning systems are embedded across industries, influencing how decisions are made, services are delivered, and outcomes are measured. The current phase of AI adoption is marked by operational integration. Institutions are no longer debating whether to use AI, but how deeply to integrate it into core workflows. Across education, healthcare, and entertainment, AI is reshaping efficiency, personalisation, and predictive capability.

EDUCATION

STANDARDISED TEACHING TO ADAPTIVE LEARNING

AI is shifting education from uniform instruction toward data-informed learning models.

Adaptive learning platforms

AI systems analyse student performance and engagement patterns to adjust lesson difficulty in real time. Gaps are identified early, allowing targeted intervention.

Intelligent tutoring systems

Virtual tutors provide explanations, feedback, and practice exercises on demand. These systems scale across thousands of learners simultaneously.

Automated assessment and feedback

AI tools assist in grading assignments and analysing written responses, reducing administrative burden and freeing educators for mentorship and deeper instruction.

***IMPACT:** AI is enabling scalable personalisation that was previously limited to one-on-one teaching.*

HEALTHCARE

DIAGNOSIS TO PREDICTION

Healthcare remains one of the most consequential domains for AI deployment.

Medical imaging and diagnostics

AI models analyse scans to detect cancers, strokes, and respiratory conditions with increasing accuracy, assisting clinicians in faster diagnosis.

Predictive risk modelling

Algorithms process patient histories to assess disease risk and enable preventive interventions.

Drug discovery & research acceleration

AI tools identify promising molecular compounds and simulate outcomes, compressing early-stage research timelines.

***IMPACT:** AI is strengthening the shift from reactive treatment to preventive and precision care.*

ENTERTAINMENT

PERSONALISATION AND PRODUCTION AT SCALE

AI is altering both how content is created and how it is consumed.

Recommendation engines

Streaming platforms use behavioural data to personalise viewing and listening experiences.

Content production tools

AI assists in editing, script drafting, animation workflows, and visual effects enhancement.

Synthetic media technologies

AI-driven dubbing, voice synthesis, and digital avatars are expanding multilingual and global content distribution.

***IMPACT:** AI is increasing production efficiency while tailoring content experiences to individual users.*

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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16•02•2026
MONDAY

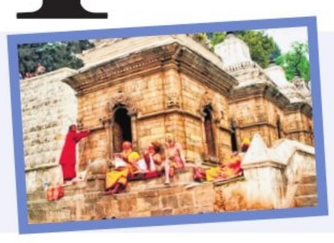
DAY'S DIARY

India-Nepal link

The first India-Nepal Rail Link opened in 1927 in Raxaul. The ceremony was the second time a Nepalese king had set foot on foreign soil

MEANS OF TRAVEL

It was also to facilitate the travel of Hindu pilgrims from India, who had to walk up to five days to reach Kathmandu to celebrate Shivaratri and other religious festivals



THE COST

Calcutta firm 'Martin & Company' surveyed and built the Nepal Government Railway in one year at a cost of 1.1 million Indian rupees

CURRENT SERVICE

In 2022, a broad-gauge passenger railway service connecting Bihar's Jayanagar with Nepal's Kurtha region was inaugurated

Events happening in Bengaluru

PG 2

CATCH-YA SOON!

After months of being on tenterhooks, Bengalureans share their excitement and apprehensions as the Indian Premier League (IPL) gears up to make a thumping comeback at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium following the clearance to hold matches

MAHIMA NAGARAJU, SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

LAST June, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru brought home the IPL cup after 17 years of almost-misses, setting the city afire with jubilant celebrations. But in that moment, when it felt like nothing could go wrong after a much-awaited victory, a deadly stampede at the gates of Chinnaswamy Stadium claimed the lives of 11 people, including two minors, trying to enter the hastily organised celebrations. Several major games which would have otherwise happened at the stadium like the ICC Women's World Cup, the Women's Premiere League and the currently underway ICC Men's T20 have all been unable to use the iconic stadium. Speculation also swirled that RCB would move out of its home base to new venues.

With confirmation that the stadium will open its doors to fans again for the IPL – with several new safety measures in place – *CE* speaks to Bengaluru's cricket lovers asking them if they are ready to reclaim Chinnaswamy Stadium again?

Rehan Mohammed, Karnataka under-19 state team cricketer

As young cricketers, experiencing the excitement at Chinnaswamy Stadium means everything to us. It's a dream stage where all the legends have played and history has been created. It inspires us to be better and stay disciplined. Without ICC matches happening in the stadium over the last few months, a lot of BCCI under-19 and under-23 state games were happening there. When we played, it was completely silent and there was a feeling of emptiness without a crowd, despite our excitement to be playing at the stadium. I'm happy that the stadium is opening to crowds again because experiencing a live match there is something great.

Shika Shetty, India Blind Women's Cricket team coach

For every player, playing in Chinnaswamy Stadium is a dream. Especially for the blind women's cricket team, after they won the World Cup last year, we want to play one match there and fulfil the dreams of all our girls. Last year's tragedy happened because it was difficult to control a sudden, large crowd and such incidents can happen anywhere. Normally, security and protocol-wise, the stadium takes care of everything very well for both domestic and international matches, so there is no worry or anxiety. We are feeling positive about the reopening.

Abidan Anish Charan, PG student

With [proposed] AI-powered cameras and structural changes within the KSCA, things should be better. But technology alone is not enough, civic sense is equally important. I would be definitely comfortable attending a match right now. I have faith in the government, the police and the organisers. A lot of effort has gone into bringing matches back to Bengaluru after addressing several concerns. I believe the authorities are better prepared this time. I'm excited to witness the atmosphere, the crowd and the energy during the comeback match. The chants of 'RCB! RCB!' will never change, regardless of results.

Anupama Gowda, actor

You can already feel the excitement in the air. At the same time, there's a small sense of concern whenever such huge crowds gather to witness the match and celebrate their beloved cricketers. We've all seen what happened when RCB won — moments like that remind us how important safety and proper management are. By safety concerns, I don't just mean what happened last time. It's a reminder that responsibility doesn't lie only with the government or the management. I truly hope the entire management plans with stronger security and better crowd control this time. As much as I love the electrifying atmosphere of a live match, I personally prefer watching the game from home.

Shreya B, student

What worries me is crowd control at high-voltage games, especially of RCB's, with people all over the state coming to watch them play. I know safety measures have been improved, but I will still be concerned while the initial matches are being played. I will not be 100 per cent comfortable attending a match until I see how the crowd control is being done for the initial matches. Trust will build after the first few games are played. However, I'm still very excited to see how RCB sustains the momentum after winning the cup last year, the crowd, the red sea, the chants and the sixes that are going to be hit. The night matches, especially, are beautiful there.

Kristen John, content creator

I hope enough has been done for crowd management and safety. We're excellent at building hype, but not always as good at organising exits. I want to believe lessons were learned, but I'll truly believe it when I see smooth entry, smooth exit, and zero stampede-style drama. Overcrowding and traffic are probably my biggest concerns. Inside the stadium is one thing, but outside, its survival mode. Bengaluru traffic on a normal day is already a sport, on match day it turns into an endurance event. Security arrangement matters, of course, but crowd behaviour is the real variable. If people stay calm and act responsibly, everything works. Attending the first match feels like a stress test. I might wait for one game. Let them iron out the chaos, fix the bottlenecks and check how the crowd behaves. Second or third match? I'll be there screaming like I own the team.

WITH VALENTINE'S DAY JUST BEHIND US, *CE* TAKES A PEEK INTO GEN-Z'S MODERN DATING VOCABULARY

Love Language

ANJALI RAM

❤ Sneaky Link

A secret hookup or relationship kept off social media and away from friends. It's low-key, no-label and often strictly physical with zero public acknowledgement.
eg: We aren't dating-dating, he's just my sneaky link!

❤ Monkey-barring

When an individual stays in a relationship while lining up the next one. When the new person starts showing interest, they slowly let go of their previous partner.
eg: He was monkey-barring, he had the next girlfriend ready, before this relationship

❤ Delusionship

When one person believes they're in a full-fledged relationship, while the other sees it as casual. It thrives on mixed signals.
eg: I thought he liked me because he liked my Instagram-story. I think I was in a delusionship

❤ Zip-coding

Judging someone or deciding their dating potential based on where they live.
eg: She is zip-coded to Bengaluru boys!

❤ Freak Matching

When two people bond over their eccentric energy or sometimes their shared quirks, chaos, and niche interests.
eg: From music taste to chaotic energy, they are freak matching so hard.

❤ Beige Flag

A behaviour that is mildly odd but not a dealbreaker.
eg: He clapped after eating food, I think that's a beige flag

❤ Sunset Clause

Entering a relationship with a spoken expiry date – common in long-distance setups.
eg: We both knew the relationship had a sunset clause, since she was moving abroad after the internship

❤ Micromance

Small, intentional gestures such as sharing playlists, sending memes and remembering coffee orders, which typically build intimacy in subtle ways.
eg: We send each other morning playlists, it's my favourite kind of micromance.

❤ Wildflowering

Taking it slow by casually dating different people while discovering yourself.
eg: I'm not settling down yet, I am just wildflowering and figuring it out.

❤ Roaching

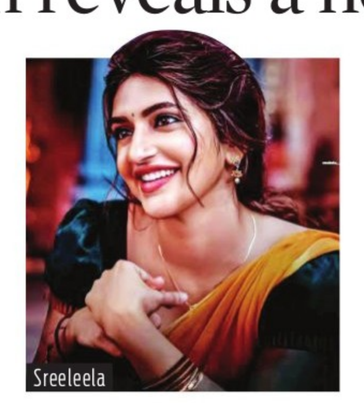
Finding out the person you're dating is also dating several other people at the same time –without telling you. It's like spotting a roach and realising there are many hiding.
eg: I really thought we were exclusive, little did I know she was roaching!

'Every film reveals a new layer of Sreeleela'

TEJAL SINHA

IN the film industry, where every frame tells a story, few makeup artists have the rare ability to make a star not just look beautiful, but come alive on screen. Lavanya Reddy is one of those talents. Her collaboration with Sreeleela, who recently received her medical degree, is turning every film set into a playground of creativity. From the effervescent charm of *Mass Jathara* to the layered intensity of *Ustad Bhagat Singh*, Reddy doesn't just enhance Sreeleela's beauty; she sculpts it to reflect each character's soul. Fans often recreate her looks, turning them into viral moments long after the credits roll.

This close partnership has shaped her approach to character-driven makeup. She begins, "With Sreeleela, every project helped me understand a new layer of her. She has an expressive face, and over time I began to read her energy even before she sat in the chair. I learned how her features respond to lighting, camera angles and character moods. Today, I can create her glam in a way that enhances not just her beauty, but the exact emotion she needs to convey on screen."



Sreeleela

Their creative process blends planning and instinct. She shares, "We always begin with the director's vision and the character's journey, but once we sit together, the look evolves naturally. As we are closely connected, she shares how she envisions her appearance and I shape the glam around that. At times, she even introduces new ideas or small techniques that inspire me to experiment further."

Lavanya Reddy

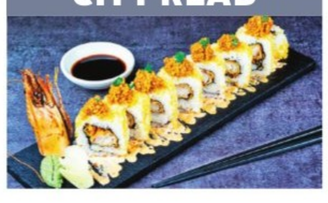
Balancing her signature glam with character demands is key. She notes, "Her signature glam is youthful, fresh and bright, but that can't be copy-pasted on every character. If the character demands innocence, I soften the glam; if it demands power, I sharpen it. The trick is keeping her essence alive while making the character believable. It's a delicate balance."

Reflecting on her journey, she recalls the turning point in her career. "The shift happened when artists started calling me back because of trust. One film led to another, and suddenly I was someone they could rely for outdoor shoots and high-stress scenes. That consistency made the industry see me as someone they 'must' call, not someone they 'can' call," she expresses.

Reddy also works with Ashika Rangnath, Imanvi Ismail, Raashii Khanna, Pawan Kalyan and Mahesh Babu.

Her journey hasn't always been smooth. She recalls, "One of the hardest phases was a project I did in the US in 2024. I don't wish to reveal the actor's name, but the experience shook me deeply. The team was unprofessional, the working conditions chaotic, and the behaviour emotionally draining. It reached a point where I realised being unemployed is better than working in an environment that destroys your peace and dignity. Walking away made me stronger and more protective of my boundaries as an artist."

CITY READ



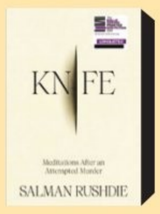
Celebrate season of love with izakaya experience

Kuuraku Nexus Shantiniketan, Whitefield Main Road, is rolling out a seasonal experience designed to celebrate love in all its forms. The izakaya experience will be available across Valentine's week from 12pm onwards. The special will feature yakitori skewers, jumbo prawn rolls and rice bowls like the chasyu don and the katsury curry and sweet indulgences like the Matcha cheese cake, ensuring that every palate finds a favourite. The menu is built on traditional Japanese craft and shared dining. For more details, call 93117 34476.

BOOK NOOK

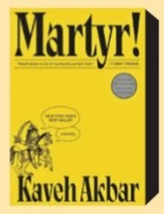
The Dream Hotel
By Laila Lalami

Set in a chilling near future where algorithms predict criminal intent, the novel follows a woman detained for a crime she hasn't committed. A sharp, unsettling meditation on surveillance, freedom and how easily civil liberties can erode.



Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder
By Salman Rushdie

Written in the aftermath of the 2022 life-threatening attack on him, this intimate yet defiant memoir sees Rushdie reflect on survival, fear and the enduring necessity of art.



Martyr!
By Kaveh Akbar

A young Iranian-American poet searches for meaning while grappling with grief, addiction and inherited trauma. Lyrical, darkly funny and deeply humane, the novel announces a bold new literary voice.

Table for Two
By Amor Towles

From chance encounters in New York to quiet reckonings in Los Angeles, Towles maps lives in transition through stories and a novella while turning everyday moments into absorbing emotional dramas.

SHOP IN STYLE

Founders of Luxette, Heena Poonawala and Afrah Musvee, showcase a curated collection of designer clothing and jewellery at the Valentine's Day sale at Bastian Garden City, St Mark's Road | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

EGGLESS RED VELVET CRINKLE COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- **Milk:** 50 ml
- **Sugar:** 75 g
- **Vanilla essence:** ½ tsp
- **Baking powder:** ½ tsp
- **Icing sugar:** 25g (for coating)
- **Melted butter:** 25 g
- **Cocoa powder:** 1 tbsp
- **All-purpose flour:** 100 g
- **Red food colour:** As needed

METHOD

- In a bowl, mix all the dry ingredients well. Add the wet ingredients one by one and whisk until combined.
- Refrigerate the dough for one hour. Shape into small balls and refrigerate again for 30 minutes.
- Roll the dough balls in icing sugar. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C for 18-20 minutes.

Contributed by **Gomathi Karthisen,** Chennai

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My 3-year-old cat is putting on weight. Should I get her started on brown rice so that she sheds some weight?

I would not advise using brown rice as a weight-loss food for cats. Cats are obligate carnivores and have no nutritional requirement for grains; rice may increase calorie intake without promoting fat loss. Managing weight is more effective through portion control, feeding a high-protein, calorie-restricted diet, and often incorporating wet food to improve satiety. Encouraging regular play and physical activity is also essential. Before adjusting her diet, a veterinary examination is recommended to exclude underlying medical issues and to design a safe, gradual weight-reduction plan.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

WHY PUSH UPS DESERVE A PLACE IN YOUR WORKOUT

Push ups are one of the most widely used bodyweight exercises across fitness routines, from strength training and functional workouts to yoga and athletic conditioning. Simple in design yet highly effective, push ups use body weight as resistance and engage multiple muscle groups at once, making them suitable for most fitness levels.

WHAT MUSCLES DO PUSH UPS WORK?

A standard push up activates several major muscle groups, including:

- Chest or pectorals
- Shoulders or deltoids
- Triceps
- Core muscles, including the abdominals
- Upper back muscles such as the latissimus dorsi
- Serratus anterior, which supports shoulder stability.

Because several muscle groups work together, push ups are classified as a compound exercise.

KEY BENEFITS OF DOING PUSH UPS REGULARLY

Push ups offer a range of physical benefits when performed with correct form and moderation:

- Build upper body strength by targeting the chest, shoulders and arms
- Improve balance and posture through constant core and glute engagement
- Support cardiovascular health by increasing heart rate during continuous repetitions
- Enhance flexibility by stretching the arms, chest and back
- Strengthen bones and joints through weight bearing movement
- Require no equipment, making them accessible anywhere

Whether push ups should be performed daily depends on fitness level and recovery. Beginners should start with incline or knee push ups and limit volume. Performing push ups three or four times a week allows muscles time to recover. As strength improves, repetitions and difficulty can be increased gradually.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Push ups are a simple yet effective exercise that builds strength, stability and endurance. While daily practice may work for experienced individuals, rest and recovery remain essential. Gradual progression and good technique ensure long term benefits without injury.

By Abhishek K, fitness expert, cult— a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Dance Movement

Learn the basics of contemporary dance with Tanya Ballal. Explore the technique of turns, floorwork and transitions. Designed for beginners, improve coordination through strength and conditioning in this workshop.

WHEN: February 16, 7.50pm

WHERE: Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Sudhama Nagar

CALL: 77608 32226

Asian Flavours

Discover Pan-Asian delights and savour flavours from across the continent. Enjoy a limited-time food festival menu, ranging from classics to regional crafts with prices starting at ₹999.

WHEN: February 16, 12.30pm onwards

WHERE: Dishkeyaun, Forum Rex Walk, Brigade Road

CALL: 63644 67375

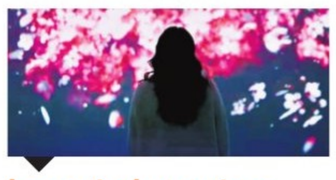
Active Fitness

Engage in a basketball session that combines cardio and strength training. Sharpen your sports skills at your own pace with a 75-minute structured workout that is effective yet fun.

WHEN: February 16, 6.45am

WHERE: MN Krishna Rao Park Basketball Court, Jayanagar

DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Innovative Immersions

Indulge in a tech-infused spiritual experience at the 'tem' installation. Engage with sensory environments, witness seasonal shifts and reflect through Indian and Japanese cultural themes.

WHEN: February 16, 10am onwards

WHERE: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka

DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Winter Wonderland

Enjoy a chilly winter vibe in the city while participating in zorbing, basketball, dancing and rafting. Take your friends and family to experience mountain climbing, snowballing and castle construction and more.

WHEN: February 16, 10am onwards

WHERE: Snow City, Jayamahal Main Rd

CALL: 78295 50000

Artsy Creations

Attend a hands-on session and work with soft air-dry clay, learning to shape and design miniature items for home decor or gifting.

WHEN: February 16, 11am onwards

WHERE: Big Bean Cafe, Koramangala

CALL: 88679 54133

Vineyard Indulgences

Witness the journey from grape to glass as you get a chance to experience an exclusive winery tour. Attend a tasting session followed and savour lunch at the onsite restaurant.

WHEN: February 16, 11am onwards

WHERE: Rico Wine Park & Vineyards, Singanayakanahalli

CALL: 96069 67208

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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ARTCORNER

RURAL REVERIE

Through delicate washes of colour, Raghunath Sahoo captures the quiet poetry and unhurried grace of village life

Guava Margarita

Ingredients

- Guava juice: 3 oz
- Tequila: 2 oz
- Coconut water: 1½ cups
- Fresh lime juice: 1 oz
- Agave syrup: 1 tbsp (or to taste)
- Ice: As required
- For rimming the glass
- Lime wedges
- Unsweetened shredded coconut
- Kosher salt

Method: Mix shredded coconut and salt on a plate. Rub lime along the rim of the glass and dip into the mixture. Add guava juice, tequila, coconut water, lime juice and agave to a shaker with ice. Shake well for about 10 seconds. Taste and adjust sweetness if needed. Fill glasses with ice, pour the margarita and garnish with a lime wedge.

GUA-WAAH!

Versatile, nutritious and delicious, the guava is often limited to raw consumption or as juice. *CE* curates a selection of recipes that show how the fruit can be used beyond the familiar

SUPRIYA & LATHEEFA BINTH FAROOK

NUTRITION

A 100-gram portion of ripe guava contains:

- Calories: 68
- Carbohydrates: 14 grams
- Fibre: 5 grams
- Protein: 2.6 grams
- Fat: 0.9 grams
- Vitamin C: 228.3 milligrams 380% Daily Value (DV)
- Folate: 49 micrograms 12% DV
- Potassium: 417 milligrams 12% DV
- Magnesium: 22 milligrams 6% DV

CRUNCHY and green, or pale and soft, the guava is a fruit most of us meet early in life. Some like it dusted with chilli and salt, bought fresh from a roadside stall, some prefer it plain and simple, right from their backyards, nothing fancy.

Packed up in tiffin boxes, often pink on the inside, they are the perfect nutritious snack and yet rarely celebrated. The fruit carries a sharp perfume and a distinct character. One bite can be sweet, the next sour. Always unpredictable, it wakes up the senses.

Guava did not begin its journey here. It is native to Central America and southern Mexico. Portuguese traders carried it across oceans in the 16th century.

It took root easily in tropical climates, including India. Over time, it settled into local food habits, reinventing itself like a native.

Across the world, guava is found in a variety of forms – jams, drinks, curries, desserts, and even savoury sauces.

Whether eaten raw, cooked into a dish, or turned into something sweet, guava offers many ways to be enjoyed. These easy recipes explore the fruit across kitchens and cultures.

Guava Milkshake

Ingredients

- Guavas: 5
- Sugar: 2 tbsp
- Vanilla extract: 1 tsp
- Ground cinnamon: 2 tsp
- Milk: 1 cup
- Vanilla ice cream: 2 cups

Method

Slice the guavas in half and scoop out the seeds. In a bowl, combine four guavas with sugar, vanilla extract and cinnamon. Mix well and set aside for 15 minutes. Dice the remaining guava and keep aside. Blend the marinated guava mixture with milk until smooth. Add ice cream and blend again until creamy. Serve immediately, garnished with diced guava.

White Chocolate Guava Magic Cookie Bars

Ingredients

- Maria cookies (or any plain biscuits): 2 cups
- Unsalted butter (melted): 8 tbsp
- Sweetened condensed milk: 14 oz
- Guava paste (cubed): 4 oz
- White chocolate chips: 1 cup
- Toasted coconut flakes: 1½ cups
- Sliced almonds: 1 cup

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F). Line a baking pan with parchment paper. Crush cookies finely and mix with melted butter. Press firmly into the base of the pan. Pour condensed milk evenly over the crust. Layer guava paste, white chocolate chips, almonds and coconut flakes on top. Press gently to help the layers bind. Bake for 25-30 minutes until lightly golden. Cool completely before slicing.

Guava Chutney

Ingredients

- Guavas (roughly chopped): 1½ cups
- Mint leaves (chopped): ¼ cup
- Ginger (chopped): ½ tsp
- Green chillies (chopped): 1 tsp
- Sugar: ½ tsp, Cumin seeds: ½ tsp
- Lemon juice: 1 tsp, Salt: to taste

Method

Add all ingredients to a mixer with about 3 tbsp water. Blend until smooth. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator and use as required.

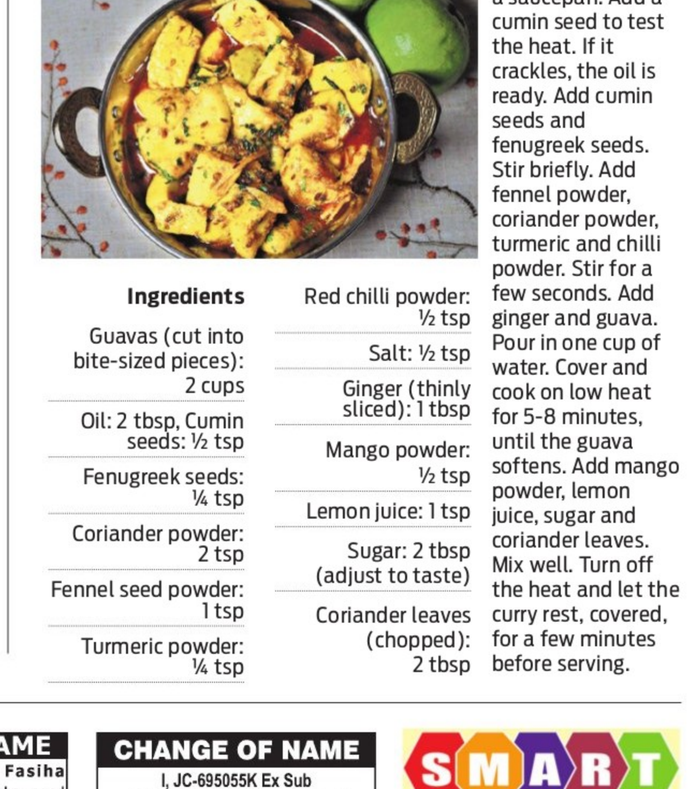
Guava Sweet Corn Salad

Ingredients

- White guavas (chopped): 2 cups
- Sweet corn (boiled or thawed): 1 cup
- Pomegranate seeds: 1 cup
- Onion (finely chopped): 1 large
- Fresh lime juice: 2 tsp, Cumin powder: 1 tsp, Salt: to taste, Crushed black pepper: to taste

Method: Cook sweet corn in salted boiling water for 2-3 minutes and drain. Combine guava, corn, onion and pomegranate in a bowl. Add lime juice, cumin powder, salt and pepper. Toss gently and serve immediately.

Guava BBQ Sauce



Ingredients

- Guava paste: 1 cup
- Apple cider vinegar: 1/3cup
- Fresh lime juice: 3 tbsp
- Spiced rum: ¼ cup (optional)
- Tomato paste: 3 tbsp
- Soy sauce: 1 tbsp
- Worcestershire sauce: 1 tbsp
- Liquid smoke: 1 tsp
- Garlic (crushed): 1 clove
- Water: ¼ cup
- Salt and pepper: to taste

Method: Add all the ingredients to a saucepan and mix well. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat. Cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thick. Remove from heat and allow to cool completely. Use as a glaze or dipping sauce for grilled or roasted dishes.

Sweet and Sour Guava Curry

Ingredients

- Guavas (cut into bite-sized pieces): 2 cups
- Oil: 2 tbsp, Cumin seeds: ½ tsp
- Fenugreek seeds: ¼ tsp
- Coriander powder: 2 tsp
- Fennel seed powder: 1 tsp
- Turmeric powder: ¼ tsp
- Red chilli powder: ½ tsp
- Salt: ½ tsp
- Ginger (thinly sliced): 1 tbsp
- Mango powder: ½ tsp
- Lemon juice: 1 tsp
- Sugar: 2 tbsp (adjust to taste)
- Coriander leaves (chopped): 2 tbsp

Method: Heat oil in a saucepan. Add a cumin seed to test the heat. If it crackles, the oil is ready. Add cumin seeds and fenugreek seeds. Stir briefly. Add fennel powder, coriander powder, turmeric and chilli powder. Stir for a few seconds. Add ginger and guava. Pour in one cup of water. Cover and cook on low heat for 5-8 minutes, until the guava softens. Add mango powder, lemon juice, sugar and coriander leaves. Mix well. Turn off the heat and let the curry rest, covered, for a few minutes before serving.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Fashya Khanum @ Fasiha Khanum,** W/o. S.A Akbar Basha, aged about 45 years, residing at No.500, 11th Cross, Ummar Nagar, Govindapura, VTC: Bangalore North, PO: Arabic College, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560045, have changed my name from **FASIHA KHANUM** to **FASHYA KHANUM** and shall hereafter be known as **FASHYA KHANUM,** vide affidavit dated 12/2/2026 sworn to before Fahim Unnisa Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JC-695055K Ex Sub VENKATESHAN GS resident of Door No.27, MILK MAN STREET, HALASURU, BENGALURU-560008, Karnataka, have changed my Spouse name from **Smt. S. MANJULA to MANJULA.S.** vide Affidavit dated 13-02-2026, sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SYED ILYAS HUSSAIN** S/o Sabju Sab, R/o No.360/6 12th Main Road, Devaraj Urs Nagar, Government Electric Factory Post, Bengaluru -560026 have changed my name from **SYED ILYAS HUSSAIN** to **SYED ILYAZ PASHA**, vide affidavit dated 20.01.2026, sworn before notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KASTHURI PADMANABHA** (New Name) previously called KASTHURI PADMANABHAN (old name) D/o Padmanabha, aged about 20 years, R/at 81, 2nd Cross, 2nd Block, Nandini Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560096.
have changed my name from **KASTHURI PADMANABHAN** to **"KASTHURI PADMANABHA"** vide Affidavit dated 13/02/2026 sworn to before G Dayananda, Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru.,

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRAJNASHREE K.M.**, D/o Konambi Puttadevaraiah Mukunda, residing at # No.526, 3rd 'A' Cross, 10th Main, MEI Layout, Nagasandra, Bangalore-560073 I have change my name from **PRAJNASHREE K. to PRAJNASHREE K.M** vide affidavit dated 06.02.206, Sworn before notary A. Manjula, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANOJ. G** S/o B.Gopi R/a No. 20, Makuntamma Nagar, Near Government School, Dodda Banaswadi, Kalyananagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560 043 have changed my name from **MANOJ. G** to **BHUVANESH. G** vide affidavit dated 11-02-2026 Sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mr. T Saravanan,** Son of Thiyagarajan, Aged about 48 years and Mrs. KANAGAVALLI M, Wife of Saravanan T, both are Residing # C-14/1446, Ground Floor, BDA Flats, Austin Town, Viveknagar, VTC: Bangalore South, PO: Viveknagar, Sub District : Bangalore South, District : Bangalore, State: Karnataka, PIN Code : 560047, do hereby declare that we have changed our minor son's name from **S HEMANTH** to **S HEMANTH AAKASH** vide affidavit dated 14.02.2026 sworn to before Ganesh Gowda M.V, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANIGANDAN GOPALAKRISHNAN,** Aged about 39 years, S/o. Gopalakrishnan Ramanathan, Residing at No.16, 5th B Block, 33rd Main, Banagirinagara, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from **MANIGANDAN GOBALAKICHENANE (Old Name)** to **MANIGANDAN GOPALAKRISHNAN (New Name),** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MANIGANDAN GOPALAKRISHNAN (New Name)** only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 13-02-2026, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AKSHAYA .A** W/o Sabarish.P aged about 38 years, residing at No.5, "Guru Krupa", 14th A Cross, Behind MES College, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003, declare that our daughter names are **SAMRIDHI** as per AADHAR (Old) 2173 0952 2415, **SAMRIDHI SABARISH** as per AADHAR (New) 2173 0952 2415 **SAMRIDHI SABARISH** as per Birth Certificate Reg No. 803162/B/B/2020/135545 Dated: 13-11-2020 and my daughter names is **SAMRIDHI** and **SAMRIDHI SABARISH** are belong to one and same person, but correct name is **SAMRIDHI SABARISH** vide affidavit dated 13-2-2026, Sworn before Notary M.S Sathish, Bangalore. Henceforth my daughter will be Known as **SAMRIDHI SABARISH** in all her future documents.

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NAME DECLARATION

We **HANUMANTHARAJU H,** S/o late Hanumantharayappa aged about 48 years VINUTHA C, W/o Hanumantharaju H, aged about 38 years, both are R/at No.48, LCS Nilaya, 8th Cross, R R College Road, Chikkabanavara, Old Railway Station, Vinayakanagara, Chikkabanavara Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560090, Karnataka State.
We declare that by mistake my name and my wife (mother) names mentioned as Hanumantharaju and Vinutha in my Daughter's 10th marks card and other school records. we declare that our correct name is **"HANUMANTHARAJU H"** and **"VINUTHA C"**, Vide Affidavit dated 11/02/2026 sworn to before Chidanandappa Ramanna Hospar, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No 8029550H, **R. JAYAPAL,** Ex Army Desig Nk (TS), S/o. Late Ramanujalu Naidu, Aged 62 years, residing at #148, 4th Cross, Nagappa Block, Bangalore-560021, Do hereby I Declare that my wife name is changed From **J. SANTHI** To **J. SHANTHI** and both are one and the same person only
This declaration is made in accordance with the Affidavit dated 12.02.2026, sworn before Notary: Onkarappa N.R, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Donthi Venkataramanaiah Rukmangada Raju.** S/o Donthi Venkataramanaiah Setty, R/at #26, 4th Cross, Near Ganesha Temple, Subedarpalya, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore-560022. Do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in PAN, DRIVING license and Voter card as **Donthi Venkataramaiah Rukmangada Raju** instead of **Donthi Venkataramanaiah Rukmangada Raju.** Hence, i would like to correct the same to **Donthi Venkatramaniah Rukmangada Raju** vide Affidavit Dated 27.01.2026 Sworn Before Notary: A. Manjula, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KANAGAVALLI M**, Wife of Saravanan T, Aged 45 years, Residing at # C-14/1446, Ground Floor, BDA Flats, Austin Town, Viveknagar, VTC: Bangalore South, PO: Viveknagar, Sub District : Bangalore South, District : Bangalore, State: Karnataka, PIN Code : 560047, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **S KANAGAVALLI** to **KANAGAVALLI M** vide affidavit dated 14.02.2026 sworn to before Ganesh Gowda M.V, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Chaitra N**, D/o. Nagaraj N, Aged about 44 years, R/at G-310, 3rd Floor, Sri Balaji Serene Apt., Century Saras Road, Ananthapura, Yelahanka, Karnataka - 560 064, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CHAITRA DATTA** to **CHAITRA N** vide affidavit dated 11.02.2026 sworn to before P. Anuradha, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIKRAM, (DOB : 01.04.1985) Aged 40 Years S/o Perumal, No. 55, Pillaganahalli, B.G.Road, PO Gottigere, Bengaluru-560 083, have changed my name from **GUBENDRAN to VIKRAM** vide Affidavit dated 14-02-2026, sworn before Advocate & Notary Devika Kumari .A Reg. No. 12480 at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUSHEELA DEVI NARASAPPA (Susheela Devi.N)** Daughter of Sri. Narasappa and Wife of Sri. Narasappa Thimmanahalli Narasegowda, aged about 61 Years, residing at No. 10, 4th Main Road, 3rd Cross, Near Renukamba Temple, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097, have changed my name from **SUSHEELA DEVI to SUSHEELA DEVI NARASAPPA** vide Affidavit dated 09-02-2026, sworn before Advocate & Notary K.C. SHASHIKALA at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VALLAVAN NITHILAN** Son of **M. Vallavan** resident of #5, 2nd Cross, 11th Main, Raghavendra Layout, Kammagondanahalli, Bangalore North, Po: Jalahalli West, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560015 have changed my name from **VALLAVAN NITHILAN to NITHILAN V** Vide affidavit dated: 09/02/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **UDAY KARIYAPPA B. G, Civil Court, Bengaluru**

CHANGE OF NAME

I (OLD NAME) **MD. JAFFAR SHADAAN,** RESIDING AT No. 12-11-188, Arab Mohalla, Raichur Post, Raichur - 584101, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) MD. JAFFAR SHADAAN** to **(NEW NAME) MOHAMMED JAFFAR SHADAAN** vide affidavit dated 11.02.2026 sworn before notary A. Manjula, Bangalore.

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Ganesh, Ramenahalli Jagannatha's film titled *Tamma Sukhagamana Bayasuva*

CE FEATURES

WE had earlier reported that director Ramenahalli Jagannatha was in talks with Golden Star Ganesh, and the collaboration now stands confirmed. The announcement comes as Ganesh completes 20 years in cinema, adding a celebratory note to the launch of the new project, *Tamma Sukhagamana Bayasuva*. The makers also unveiled the film's poster, drawing immediate attention to its warm, family-driven tone.

The film was formally launched on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri in the presence of the team, friends, and fans, with Shilpa Ganesh giving the inaugural clap. The project is produced by Vijay Lohith's Wyshnavi Films with Satish H Gowda on board as co-producer.

Ramenahalli Jagannatha and Ganesh

Speaking at the launch, Jagannatha called it a special day, recalling how he was an engineering student when Mungaru Male released in 2006 and how he watched the film countless times. He shared that the script was written specifically for Ganesh, describing it as a family-oriented emotional drama. He added that the title, much like his earlier works, is chosen to sound close to everyday life while fitting seamlessly with the story and characters.

Ganesh spoke about completing two decades on screen and credited the love he has consistently received from audiences, filmmakers, and producers. He revealed that he was moved while listening to the narration and believes the film, while rooted in a family backdrop, carries all the elements that connect with viewers. He also expressed confidence in the team and their approach to the story.

The film will have music by Arjun Janya, continuing his successful association with the actor, with details about the rest of the cast and technical crew expected to be announced soon.

With its launch aligning with Ganesh's 20-year journey, *Tamma Sukhagamana Bayasuva* begins its run with warmth, familiarity, and the promise of a story built on emotion and relationships.

'WE CAN'T SATISFY EVERY AUDIENCE MEMBER, BUT WE SHOULDN'T STOP TRYING'

The debut director traces his journey from schoolboy storyteller to filmmaker, rooting his first feature, starring Ritvvikk Mathad and Chairthra Achar in Mangaluru's *Maarnami* festivities

A SHARADHAA

FOR Rishith Shetty, storytelling began long before cinema entered his life. "Even in school, while in 1st or 2nd standard, whatever happened in the house, I would write it as a story, and report it to my mother,," he says. What began as simple narrations of daily life slowly turned into a lifelong instinct to observe, record and imagine.

In 2015 and 2016, when he decided to step into cinema as an actor, he began with serials. "I took to acting in serials, and assisted in a few," he recalls. But somewhere along the way, a new thought shaped his direction. "I realised that if I want to tell a story to the audience, I must write the characters." That realisation nudged him towards direction.

After assisting a few filmmakers, it was his friend Sudhi Aryan who narrated a premise set around Dasara. "He gave a line about this in and around Dasara, and we placed a love story as the backdrop, and that's how *Maarnami* happened," says Rishith.

The film is produced by Shilpa Nishanth under the banner Gunadya Productions, with music by Charan Raj and Shivasena, and editing by Pratheek Shetty.

Many stories emerge from the coastal belt, and Rishith himself belongs to that region. "It is easy to tell the audience a story about what I have seen and heard since childhood," he explains. Since it was his first film, he wanted to present what he knew best. "I thought I should put forth my strong suit, and since my ADs are from Mangaluru, I thought it was best to start with *Maarnami*."

For him, authenticity requires immersion. "If I have to tell a story of some roots, in case I have to tell a story of North Karnataka, I have at least travel there for a year to understand the culture before I pick a story of that place," he says.

While hulivesha or tiger dance is common in coastal films, *Maarnami* explores a lesser-known cultural scale. "Dasara festivities, which are on the scale of Mysuru, will also take place in Mangaluru. However, it is limited to the coastal belt and its people, unlike the one in Mysuru where we see people from all cultures, including from other countries. The coastal Dasara festivities is known as *Maarnami*," he explains.

Set against this vibrant backdrop is a love story based on true incidents. "There is suspense, and situations create tension," he says. The story follows the character of Chetu through different stages of life. "It is about the life of Chetu, his life from childhood to adulthood, marriage, children, and this journey is filled with twists and turns."

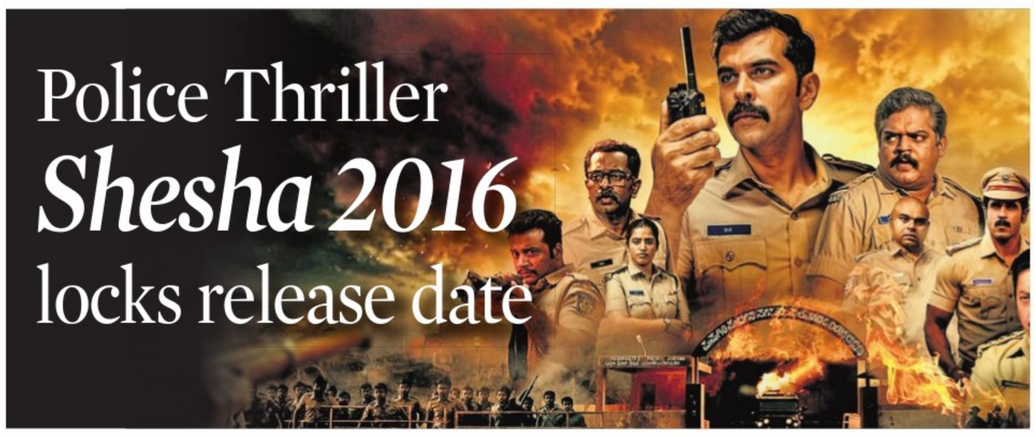
Rishith had known Ritvvik Mathad since their serial days, and the filmmaker felt the actor was best suited to be the face of *Maarnami*. "I knew Ritvvik's capacity, as I worked with him in television. He liked the story, and we then worked on searching for the producer, and travelled six months before Nishanth came in." While writing the final draft, he had Chairthra Achar in mind for the female lead. "The character has so many variations. I knew nobody other than Chairthra could pull off the role, and she was the only preference."

Making *Maarnami* was challenging. "It was shot during the Dasara festivities in Mangaluru, and there is so much drama in festivals." The team recreated three timelines of Dasara, starting from 1990 and moving ahead by 20 years twice. "We had our art director Varadaraj Kamath who designed this along with us." With hardly 50 junior artists available locally and a need for more than 1200, they brought artistes from across Karnataka. "We gave them space and stage, and the vibe is colourful. It will look real."

As the film approaches its February 20 release, Rishith feels content. Talking about today's Kannada cinema, he says, "We always talk about we know the audience pulse, but I believe we should first be the audience and like the cinema, and then we can ask people to like. We can't satisfy all, but we must not stop trying to cater to them."

For him, every step of cinema has been a victory. "First time when I tell a story is the first win of mine, and getting a producer is the second, completing the film is another win, and now coming to the theatres, I have won half." He signs off with confidence. "Once audience come to theatre, they will like it, and will spread the word."

The character has so many variations. I knew nobody other than Chaitra could pull off the role, and she was the only preference
- Rishith Shetty, director
A still from the film



CE FEATURES

THE police drama *Shesha 2016* is all set to hit theatres on March 6. Starring Pramod Shetty, John Kaippallil, Archana Kottige, and Devaraj, the film has been acquired by Prime Video for its OTT release.

Shot simultaneously in Kannada and Malayalam, *Shesha 2016* revolves around the gripping conflict between corruption and integrity within the police department. Produced under the Maradigudda Entertainments banner by Umesh Gowda, Manjuvani VS and Veena S, the film marks the directorial debut of Pradeep Arsikere. The team recently held a press conference at GT Mall in Bengaluru to announce the release date and OTT partnership. ACP Ganesh and Mohan Kumar Danappa, Chairman of the State Police Complaints Authority, attended the event as chief guests and unveiled the release poster.

Speaking at the event, ACP Ganesh said police roles are often portrayed negatively in films. After learning about the storyline of Shesha 2016, he appreciated that the film highlights both corrupt officials and honest officers. He urged audiences to support meaningful cinema in theatres rather than limiting viewing to mobile screens. Mohan Kumar Danappa echoed similar sentiments, encouraging families to watch and promote socially responsible Kannada films.

Hyderabad-based Dr Rajeev and Kranthi Prasad facilitated the OTT deal. Prasad revealed that they have acquired rights to nearly 1,880 films so far and assured support for quality cinema. Dr Rajeev added that good films will always receive their backing.

Director Pradeep described the film as a fictional story set along the Karnataka–Kerala border in 2016. He explained that 'Shesha' refers to what remains after the clash between good and evil. A former KEB employee, he quit his job to pursue filmmaking. The makers revealed that the film was shot over 35 days, with a lot of sequences shot in rain and in the night.

New *Charlie's Angels* film in development

CE FEATURES

CHARLIE'S Angels will be back on the big screens once again as Sony Pictures is in the process of developing a new version of the widely popular action film, just in time for the 50th anniversary of its original series.

Screenwriter Pete Chiarelli, known for *The Proposal* (2009), *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018), *Now You See Me 2* (2016) and *Goat* (2026), is a part of the film. Further details on the actors' roles, plotline and producers are currently unknown.

The long-running franchise, which originated in 1976, ran for five seasons and 115 episodes till 1981. Starring Kate Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, and Jaclyn Smith in leading roles, the series followed the three women working at a private detective agency, with John Forsythe voicing the unseen Charlie who directs the women to tackle several crime-related jobs over the phone. The film was a landmark in pop culture and film history, and later had a reboot in 2000 with Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu.

Salman Khan praises *Rakkasapuradhol's* trailer

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Salman Khan has turned the spotlight on Raj B Shetty's *Rakkasapuradhol*, offering words of appreciation after watching its trailer. The film, which hit theatres on February 6, has been receiving a steady response from audiences.

Rakkasapuradhol is directed by debutant Ravi Saranga and produced by stunt choreographer Ravi Varma. Impressed by the trailer, Salman reportedly appreciated the effort and asked the makers when he could watch the Hindi version.

For the team, the endorsement comes at a crucial time as *Rakkasapuradhol* continues its theatrical run into the second week across Karnataka.

Ravi Varma, who has built a long career as an stubt choreographer across multiple industries, shares professional ties with several leading actors, including Salman Khan.

The film features Raj B Shetty as a police officer and includes performances by Aniruddh Bhat, Swathi Krishna, Archana Kottige, B Suresh, Jahangir, and Gaurav Shetty.

Jason Statham to star as himself in Jason Statham *Stole My Bike*

CE FEATURES

FRESH from his role in Shelter and with a lineup of projects at various stages of production, Jason Statham has found his next film. The actor is set to star as himself in Jason Statham *Stole My Bike*, an action-comedy from director David Leitch, known for *Deadpool 2, Bullet Train* and *The Fall Guy*. The project brings Statham back together with Leitch after they collaborated on 2019's Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw.

Leitch is set to direct Jason Statham in *Stole My Bike* from a screenplay by Alison Flierl, known for her work on series such as School Of Rock and BoJack Horseman. Reports suggest that it will revolve around the international action phenomenon, Jason Statham himself.